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No 3,772

# THE INDEPENDENT

WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 1998

(1R50p) 45p

Tina Brown:  
in town, on the  
prowl

INTERVIEW, FRONT

Control freaks:  
they're beyond  
our Ken

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Mandy, you  
mean nothing  
to him

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IN THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW + FASHION

## Blair's secret purge of MEPs

TONY BLAIR was engulfed in a new row over "control freakery" last night after an internal Labour document revealed that several "old Labour" MEPs are to be sacked.

The report, leaked to *The Independent*, admits that Labour expects to suffer big losses in next June's elections to the European Parliament. It suggests that while many Blair loyalists will keep their seats, dissidents and older MEPs will lose their jobs in Strasbourg because

BY ANDREW GRICE  
Political Editor

they have been placed too low on the party's "pecking order" of candidates.

Labour leaders have consistently denied claims of a purge of independent-minded European MPs. But the leaked document, circulated to officials at Labour's Millbank headquarters in London, will give further ammunition to the Prime Minister's critics. They

are already angry about his alleged interference in the selection of Labour candidates for London mayor and for the Scottish and Welsh assemblies.

The report forecasts that Labour, which won 62 seats in the last European elections in 1994, will hold only 34 after next June's poll - a significant setback for Mr Blair. The main beneficiaries would be the Liberal Democrats whose number of MEPs would jump from two to 10. The Tories, who currently hold 18 seats in Strasbourg, would win only four more.

Officials at Millbank said yesterday the actual results could be even worse for Labour. They insisted the figures, compiled by Adamson Associates, a European public affairs consultancy, were "very optimistic" as they were based on current opinion poll ratings. Officials believe the party's commanding lead may be cut by next summer, especially if the country's economic problems worsen.

Under the controversial "closed list" system of proportional representation chosen by the Government, people will be able to vote only for a party and not for individual candidates, so the parties' rankings in effect decide which candidates become MEPs.

Last night, the House of Lords defied Mr Blair for an unprecedented fourth time by defeating the plan for "closed lists" by 261 votes to 198, and called for "open lists" so that

voters could opt for candidates rather than parties. But ministers said the Lords rebellion would eventually be seen off, either by forcing the European Parliamentary Elections Bill through the Lords later this week or reintroducing the measure in the next parliamentary session, which starts on Tuesday.

The leaked report predicts that at least eight Labour MEPs seeking re-election will not hold their seats under the new system because they have

been placed too low down the list approved by the party leadership. Privately, Labour officials believe up to 12 sitting MEPs could lose out.

In Strasbourg last night, the document was dubbed "Blair's hit-list" by one Labour MEP who refused to be named. He said: "This proves what we have suspected, but Millbank has denied. It is now crystal clear there is a purge."

Ken Coates, the left-wing MEP for Nottinghamshire

North and Chesterfield, who was expelled from the Labour Party in January, said: "This shows the whole operation is run by control freakery. Anyone who is 'off message' is being dumped."

Labour officials denied the charge, insisting that the "closed list" system would result in more women and ethnic minority candidates being elected.

Peers revolt, page 8  
Ken Livingstone, Review, page 3



An early winter frost settles on these flowers in Essex as forecasters predict more chilly weather ahead

Brian Harris

## Junior doctors to get 48-hour working week

BY STEPHEN CASTLE  
and GLENDA COOPER

PLANS to cut the hours of junior hospital doctors, and phase in a 48-hour working week, will be announced by the European Commission today.

The initiative could herald the resolution of one of the longest-running and most contentious staffing issues in the National Health Service.

The measure will be proposed in a new directive extending the 48-hour week enjoyed by most workers to many still excluded, including junior doctors and transport workers. It would cut working hours for junior doctors to 54 a week as soon as it is adopted, then give the Government



seven years to reduce them to a maximum of 48 hours.

The directive will define working time as the hours spent on the premises and at the disposal of the hospital authorities. Periods spent asleep but on call will not be counted. The punishing regime to

which many junior doctors are subjected has raised fears that exhaustion could endanger patients' safety. The Department of Health has already promised to reduce junior doctors' hours to 56, although it estimates that 10-15 per cent of the country's 34,000 doctors work longer.

The Government does not have a veto because the issue will be decided by ministers under qualified majority voting.

Last night a spokeswoman for the British Medical Association said: "It will take a huge effort to make it work by doctors, patients and the health service. Obviously in practical terms they will have great problems staffing the hospital."

The directive will also apply to 3.5 million transport workers.

## Suicides and bombs as Kurds step up protest

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

TWO KURDS set themselves on fire in Moscow yesterday and a Kurdish woman killed herself in a suicide bombing in Turkey as the diplomatic crisis across Europe deepened over Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdish guerrilla leader arrested in Italy last week.

His arrest is the focus of a confrontation between Rome and Ankara, and sparked demonstrations in European cities, most dramatically in Moscow, where the protesters soaked themselves in petrol and set themselves alight outside parliament. The men suffered serious burns.

The crisis began when the Italians arrested Mr Ocalan, head of the Kurdish Workers' Party, who has led a 14-year

struggle for an autonomous state in south-east Turkey, as he tried to enter the country on a flight from Moscow, carrying a false passport. He applied for asylum, but the Turks demanded the return of a man they claim is responsible for thousands of deaths.

Yesterday the Turkish Cabinet discussed a possible end to capital punishment, which would remove Italy's prime argument against agreeing Mr Ocalan's extradition. For the moment, Rome is holding firm.

For Kurds, Mr Ocalan is a hero, whose detention, Turkish security forces fear, could trigger a spate of terrorist attacks.

Yesterday's suicide bombing in Yuksekova, near where Turkey, Iran and Iraq meet, was the first of its kind since 1996, but may signal the start of a new campaign.

The attempted self-immolations in Moscow were but the most spectacular of a string of protests yesterday. Bonn saw a march by 4,000 Kurds resident in Germany, while in Rome thousands of Kurds from all over Europe have gathered for a vigil.

The crisis also threatens further to poison relations between Turkey and the EU, already strained by Europe's refusal to give a date for the start of accession negotiations with Ankara, and by the continuing set-to over Cyprus.

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Paul Seddon (left), jailed for life for murdering Dillon Hill, David Hargreaves (centre) and Craig Hollinrake, received 18 and 16 years respectively for conspiracy to murder

# The short life and gangland death of a child of the drug culture

**THERE** can be few more poignant symbols of the futility of the drugs trade than five-year-old Dillon Hill, shot dead on a cobbled street yards from his home, recipient of a bullet intended for his stepfather.

Dillon's killer, Paul Seddon, 27, was jailed for life yesterday at Preston Crown Court with a recommendation that he serve at least 25 years. He had committed, Mr Justice Forbes told him, "a truly appalling crime".

But to relatives and neighbours of a little boy described as "bursting with love", Seddon was not the only man with blood on his hands. It was his stepfather, John Bates, who had brought the gunman to the family's doorstep in Bolton, Greater Manchester.

Seddon, a contract killer, had been sent to "execute" Bates, a small-time heroin dealer, after he fell out with a local drugs gang.

It was Dillon's fatal misfortune to be walking home hand-in-hand with their target on the summer afternoon when Seddon struck. Minutes earlier, he had been playing on a computer at a friend's house.

The jury took nearly 11 hours to find Seddon, a convicted drug dealer, guilty of killing the boy and of attempt-

BY KATHY MARKS

ing to murder Mr Bates, 30, in August last year. Mr Bates was wounded in the attack.

The judge told Seddon: "You brought sudden terror and violence to the residential streets of Bolton. You also brought death. But not to your intended victim. You only wounded him. You brought death to an innocent little boy."

Two other members of the gang who planned to murder Mr Bates, David Hargreaves, 24, and Craig Hollinrake, 25, were given sentences of 18 and 16 years respectively for conspiracy to murder.

The court heard that an attempt had been made on Mr Bates's life just 17 hours earlier. As he sat in an armchair in the front room of his home, a bullet ripped through the window, narrowly missing his head.

It was a warning to him that he had fallen foul of the people who controlled the local drug trade. But he persuaded Dillon's mother, Jane Hull, not to call the police.

He told the court: "It was a stupid thing to do. I was confused, I was scared. I should have phoned the police. If I had, Dillon would still be alive."

Mrs Hull had ignored her

own wake-up call a year earlier. Charged at Burnley Crown Court with allowing Bates to sell heroin at the house, she was spared jail by a judge who warned her to protect her son from the evils of drugs.

A simple plaque marks the spot where Dillon collapsed and died. The plaque, left by residents of the quiet residential street, reads: "In memory of Dillon Hill. A small flower picked and placed in God's heavenly garden. Born 27-1-91, shot and killed on this spot 6-8-97. An innocent victim."

There were emotional scenes in the packed public gallery yesterday. Relatives of Dillon cried "yes" as the unanimous guilty verdict was announced.

Dillon's aunt, Nicola, said she had spoken to Jane Hull to tell her the verdict. "She's just glad it's over," she said. "Life has been put on hold for everybody. Now my nephew can rest in peace. Justice has been done for Dillon."

Dillon's grandfather, Robert Hull, said: "I am pleased with the verdict. It's been an appalling time and today has been an ordeal. It was the right decision. We've got to try to get back to normality now, but I still think about Dillon very much."

Detective Superintendent Peter Ellis, who led the murder investigation, said that the crime had sent shockwaves through the nation.

"There has been no doubt in my mind as to who was responsible for the murder of Dillon Hull," he said. "What we should not lose sight of is the fact that a five-year-old boy has lost his life and everything he had to look forward to."

The court heard that it was never in doubt that Dillon had been loved and well cared for by both his mother and stepfather. Mr Bates had accepted him as his own son. The family had moved from Blackburn to make a new start while Jane Hull was pregnant with Dillon's half-brother, Codie.

Det Supt Ellis said: "It is

clear that Jane Hull has had problems in her life. But we have always known that Dillon was a happy child - loved and well cared for."

Codie was born three weeks before the tragedy, but remained in hospital, where he was weaned off the heroin substitute methadone. He remained in hospital, drastically underweight, and never entered the family home while Dillon was alive.

Social services in the area admitted that the family was known to them because of Codie's condition, but said they had never been concerned about Dillon's welfare.

Seddon was given a concurrent 20-year sentence for attempting to murder Mr Bates. The judge told him: "I realise that we may never know precisely who or on whose behalf

you were acting when you attacked Mr Bates.

"I have no doubt, however, your attack on him was carried out in order to further the interests of those dealing in illegal drugs in the Bolton area. You were their hired killer."

The court had heard that the drug gang decided to kill Mr Bates because he had refused to work for them after moving from Blackburn, where he could buy drugs more cheaply. It had been intended as a warning to others that the gang intended to hang on to its territory.

He would come up to me and chat about things that were going on. He was very good at general knowledge. When I start to talk about him I can picture his face again."

Ms Morris said: "The fact is that David Willetts is being either hypocritical or ignorant, since Tory ministers made clear that they did not expect permanent exclusions in all cases and suggested that schools should have a repertoire of responses."

The Government was committed to tackling the menace of drugs in schools, which was why it was investing £22.5m in drugs education over the next three years, she said. And she added: "Our guidance updates the 1995 guidance, making it very clear it is for schools to decide on whether to exclude permanently for all incidents connected with drugs - and pointing out that fixed-term exclusions may be more appropriate on some occasions."

Unison national officer John Findlay, representing educational social workers, backed Ms Morris. "It is too simplistic just to say that the kids should be excluded, that the problem should be put back on to the streets ... We need to keep these kids included in the system so that this issue can be dealt with properly."

The National Children's Bureau also expressed support for a "balanced" approach.

Leading article, Review, page 3



Five-year-old Dillon Hill, who was shot dead in an botched attempt to execute his step-father, John Bates

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# Unknowns and losers make their fortune in the Internet gold rush

BY DAVID USBORNE  
in New York

THERE WAS a new and prestigious symbol listed on the New York Stock Exchange yesterday. It was "DSX" and it stands for DaimlerChrysler, the new combination of two of the world's most venerable car-makers - corporations with both track records and profits. But who cares, when you have TGLO to invest in?

Now, TGLO is the ticker symbol for a tiny New York outfit that calls itself *theglobe.com*. This is a company with almost no track record and, worse, no profits at all. So far, it has a history only of losses and its founders cannot even tell when they might make a profit. But *theglobe.com* is an Internet company so, naturally, you are going to shower it with your hard-earned money anyway. It stands to reason - or not.

Last Friday, the company, which offers help in creating personalised websites, made history with an initial public offering, or IPO, of shares in New York. Priced the night before at a modest \$9 each, the shares at one point reached \$97 during trading on Friday before finally settling at the market's close at \$63.50.

That still meant an increase on the day of sevenfold or a breathtaking 606 per cent.

The IPO, engineered by the Bear Stearns brokerage house, thus became the most successful in value-gain terms, ever seen on Wall Street. In *theglobe.com* each changed hands no fewer than five times, such was the frenzy among investors, many of them single individuals buying and selling the fledgling shares over their home computers.

What happened on Friday, however, was not an isolated incident of collective investor insanity. Rather, it was just another illustration of the stunning clamour in the US, and also in Britain, for anything that is moving these days in the Internet industry.

Everybody seems to be harbouring the same dream - somewhere out there is the new



Jack Hidary (left), the suddenly wealthy chief executive of Earth Web, and Jeff Bezos, the founder of the equally successful Amazon.com



Suzanne de Chillo

Microsoft. If *theglobe.com* is it, they want to make sure that they have a slice.

*theglobe.com*, in fact, came on the heels of another company that also went public last week. Earth Web, also based in New York's aptly named Silicon Alley, offers Internet professionals a forum to chat on line about problems and new software products.

It debuted last Wednesday with an IPO share price of \$14. By Friday's close it had risen fivefold to \$43.69.

Its suddenly wealthy president and the chief executive is Jack Hidary, who founded the company in 1994 with his brother, Murray Hidary.

True, there has been a slight cooling in the enthusiasm for *theglobe.com* and Earth Web since last week. As some investors saw the chance for profit taking, *theglobe.com* saw its market value slip 23 per cent on Monday. Earth Web also suffered some slippage yesterday.

Even so, the ability of Internet stocks to defy gravity is a phenomenon that is shocking even to many of the professional analysts. "The valuations being ascribed to these very young companies makes almost no sense," said Lise Buyer, an analyst with Credit Suisse First Boston in New York. Consider this, for example - *theglobe.com* had a market

value on Friday night of \$622m, while in the first nine months of the year it made a loss of \$1.5m on revenue of \$2.7m. That means it was trading at a market capitalisation that was at 357 times revenue. The average US company trades at five times its revenue.

The success of the IPO by *theglobe.com* "would never have happened if you did not have the Internet feeding frenzy", said David Menlow, the president of the IPO Financial Network news service.

Indeed, it is not just the latest start-ups that are sucking cash. According to Goldman Sachs, Internet stocks as a whole shot up no less than 11.5

per cent just in the first 10 days of this month. That is more than double other sectors in a market which, admittedly, has been having an unexpectedly strong run since the downturn of early October.

Among the star performers

is Bay Inc, an on-line auctioneer which also recently listed and is now worth almost \$5bn - about 733 times its expected 1999 revenue.

Since last month's market lows, Yahoo!, the browser engine, has seen its value soar by 72 per cent, while Amazon.com, the on-line bookseller, is up 139 per cent.

Amazon, founded by Jeff Bezos, who is also its chief ex-

ecutive, was sky-rocketing again yesterday.

This is, of course, all about expectations. More specifically, it is about the expectation that doing business on the Internet, and especially retail commerce, is about to boom.

Proof may come as soon as this Christmas season. Recent studies show that consumers in the US are poised to spend \$2.3bn buying products via cyberspace, up from \$1.1bn last year. According to the polling company Louis Harris, 43 per cent of all Americans who own computers will do some of their Christmas shopping on the Internet, compared with just 10 per cent a year ago.

## Carey warns on church schools

BY CLARE GARNER

THE ARCHBISHOP of Canterbury last night criticised government plans to reduce the Church of England's control of its schools.

Dr George Carey told the General Synod that he feared a clash with the Government over proposed legislation, which would reduce the voting rights of church representatives on local education committees. The church lays great store by the value of a Christian ethos in its 3,000 schools.

Dr Carey said: "While the Government has been receptive to many of our views about education, there is one I fear the possibility - I put it no higher - of some of the shine being taken off that understanding. As currently envisaged in the consultation document *Modernising Local Government*, the voice of the church could be weakened - and with it the ability to influence thinking on education - a development that would sit awkwardly alongside the current cooperative spirit."

The Church of England, which provides education for one in four primary pupils and one in 20 secondary pupils, is keen to expand its role. In so doing, it would be "fulfilling a crucial part of [its] mission to spread the gospel," Dr Carey said.

However, the Government appears to be moving in the opposite direction, reducing rather than increasing the church's influence. The consultation paper, published by the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, does not fully recognise or guarantee the voting rights of church nominees at local level.

A spokesman for Mr Prescott denied that church nominees were being excluded from the decision-making process. In future they would sit on "scrutiny committees" which would give them a "more dynamic role", he said. "They will be able to account for and propose issues rather than merely be present on a body which sees through decisions already taken."

The synod voted in favour of setting up a commission to draft a future strategy for church schools.

# GENETIC LEAK

"The context for our work, which is no doubt feeding back to all those involved in this issue, is a collapse of public support in Britain that has worsened over the summer"

Shirley Greenberg, Monsanto Advisor

Monsanto's expensive campaign to get you to swallow genetically engineered food has failed. The quote above from their own research shows the public's overwhelming rejection of being guinea pigs in Monsanto's experiments. Little wonder that food retailers are on a knife edge, seeing only a 50/50 chance of a future for genetically engineered food.

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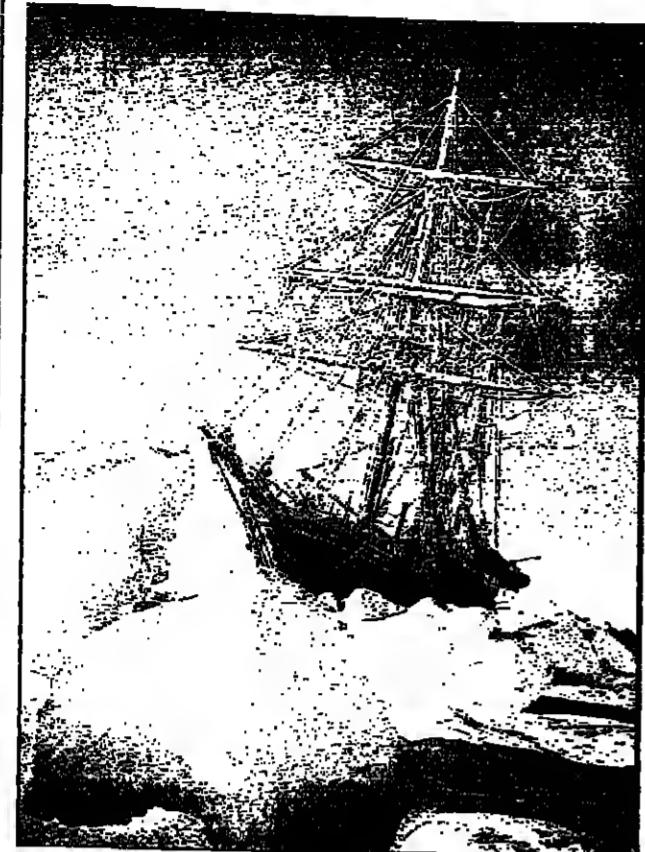


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D/E/F



# Shackleton's adventure comes in from the cold



Bright sunshine illuminates 'The Endurance' trapped in the ice (left), the port watch play the starboard watch at football (centre) and Charles Green, the cook, skins a penguin caught on the ice for dinner. Frank Hurley

PICTURES NEVER seen before of Shackleton's expedition to the South Pole are to be published in a new book. The images tell an astonishing story of the crew's months of waiting to be rescued after their ship had sunk and they show the chilling beauty of Antarctica.

The pictures, some of which are reproduced here, range from a game of football on the

BY DAVID LISTER  
Arts News Editor

exploration. Weaving a treacherous path through the icy Weddell Sea, they were within 80 miles of their destination when the ship was trapped in the ice.

In August 1914 Sir Ernest Shackleton and a crew of 27 set sail aboard 'The Endurance' bound for the South Atlantic. Their goal was to be the first men to cross Antarctica, the last unclaimed prize in the history of

expedition. Weaving a treacherous path through the icy Weddell Sea, they were within 80 miles of their destination when the ship was trapped in the ice.

For the next 10 months they waited for the ice to break, but it never happened and 'The Endurance' was crushed under the floes and sank on 21 November 1915. For the next five months the crew was

stranded on the ice floes before reaching the relative safety of Elephant Island.

Then Shackleton and five of his crew set off in a boat for help 800 miles away in South Georgia. After four rescue attempts, Shackleton and every member of his crew returned home safely.

A new book by the American academic Caroline Alexander charts how they survived. And

it also tells another miraculous survival story - those of the photographs of Frank Hurley, the Australian photographer who joined the crew of 'The Endurance' to document their expected achievement.

Hurley's images, most of which have never been seen before, re-create the crew's daily struggles to stay alive. The story of the pictures' survival is a remarkable one.

The glass-plate negatives were stored in hermetically sealed canisters that lasted five months on the ice floes, a week in an open boat on the polar seas and five months buried in the snows of the rocky outcrop called Elephant Island.

Although ordered to abandon his negatives in the wreck of 'The Endurance', Hurley dived several times into the

freezing waters before rescuing them. Towards the end of the ordeal Hurley had to abandon most of his equipment and captured many of the moments with a pocket camera and a single roll of Kodak film.

Movie film footage that Hurley took has now been restored by the British Film Institute and will be shown next month at the National Film Theatre.

When the financiers of Shackleton's expedition first saw the expedition footage they felt it was not commercial enough, lacking any scenes of polar animal life. So Hurley was ordered to return for shots of penguins and elephant seals.

■ *The Endurance* by Caroline Alexander is published by Bloomsbury on 29 November, price £20.

## Public rejects genetically modified food

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY  
Environment Correspondent

by mixing bioengineered soya products with normal ones, allowing consumers no choice.

"The latest survey shows an ongoing collapse of public support for biotechnology and GM foods," he writes. "At each point in this project, we keep thinking that we have reached the low point and that public opinion will stabilise, but we apparently have not reached that point. The latest survey shows a steady decline over the year, which may have accelerated in the most recent period."

Mr Greenberg was not available at his Washington office last night.

A spokesman for Monsanto said the document had been prepared for a company meeting. "There is nothing new or different from what we have been talking about all summer in it," he said. "No one would argue that there is a lot of concern and questions about biotechnology right now."

This year opposition to GM food has been more fiercely expressed than ever before in Britain, with the Prince of Wales, an organic farmer, making two outspoken attacks and declaring he would not serve it to his family or guests. English Nature, the Government's wildlife agency, called for a three-year moratorium on the commercial planting of genetically modified crops, saying that the deadlier weedkillers some can support are extremely harmful to wildlife.

The one hope Mr Greenberg holds out for Monsanto is

with politicians and government scientists. "Fully half of the MPs [he surveyed] see benefits outweighing risks: 70 per cent of the MPs reacted positively to GM foods."

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The one hope Mr Green

# Rail watchdog is wrong kind of commuter



Commuters on the Berkhamsted are delighted at the high-level backing for their complaints about services

Andrew Buurman

THE LETTER seemed to be like every other complaint about an appalling train journey – but this time the rail industry had encountered the wrong sort of commuter. And he was angry.

The commuter was John O'Brien, responsible for overseeing the passenger train franchises on the privatised railway, and his letter to Railtrack's chief executive, Gerald Corbett, pulled no punches.

Mr O'Brien was angry at claims by Railtrack that the current poor performance on the railways was due to the train companies not having any incentives to run trains well – only to run more of them.

But in his letter, which was leaked to the media, he used his own personal experience as a commuter from Berkhamsted in Hertfordshire to London Euston to hammer home his point. He said suffered a "formidable range of problems" travelling on both Virgin and Silverlink trains using the southern end of the decaying West Coast main line between London and Scotland.

BY PHILIP THORNTON  
Transport Correspondent

"Frankly, performance on this route has been quite appalling recently, with the majority of delays tracking back to areas which are your responsibility. Yesterday's gripe – my train was half an hour late because of points failure at Watford, again." He said it was "obvious that many delays had nothing to do with how far the operators are incentivised to provide a punctual service".

*The Independent* on Sunday last week revealed that Mr O'Brien had told Mr Corbett he was "manifestly wrong" when he claimed the train companies did not have enough incentives.

His comments have forced into the open a private simmering row between Railtrack and the train companies over who is to blame for the recent slump in performance. Yesterday a spokesman for Silverlink, which carries more than 40,000 commuters a day from Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Northamptonshire, said Mr O'Brien's comments "reflect those of Silverlink and those of our customers. We would refute the allegations that there are not enough in-

centives for us to perform better," a spokesman said, adding that about 10 per cent of delays were due to Silverlink, 10 per cent were acts of God, leaving 80 per cent attributable to Railtrack or other parties.

Railtrack said the West Coast Line had been starved of investment for decades under British Rail. A spokesman said under a joint venture Railtrack and Virgin Trains were investing £3.5bn to upgrade the line for 140mph trains that would benefit all users of the line.

Commuters on the 14.48 Berkhamsted to Euston train yesterday were delighted that such a senior figure in the industry had taken up their cause.

Leon Viljoen, a county court judge who commutes to Watford and Milton Keynes from London, kept a six-week record of journeys last year. He said delays were "so frequent and so regular that one incident runs into another. It is so frequent that it beggars belief."

The row between Railtrack and the train companies is likely to continue until next week when they are summoned for a "summit meeting" with John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister.

## £1bn overspend on Tube link

BY BARRIE CLEMENT  
Labour Editor

LONDON'S beleaguered Jubilee Line extension is likely to cost almost £1bn more than originally planned.

The transport minister Glenda Jackson confirmed last night that the cost of the link between central London and the Millennium Dome in Greenwich has escalated from £1.9bn in 1993 to £2.85bn.

The eventual cost may be even higher and, to add to the troubles, the line was hit by strike action yesterday. There have been allegations of sabotage and directors of the biggest electrical contractor on the project alleged that some of the electricians who walked out had been guilty of vandalism.

The company, Drake and Scull, has urged the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union to take action against the "villains and thugs" accused of damaging equipment. The union has replied that if there is evidence of criminal damage, the police should be informed.

Sheila Knight, the company's personnel manager, confirmed that management had made al-

legations of sabotage, but said there had been "no serious incidents" and it was not a big concern.

The company professed surprise over yesterday's industrial action by 400 electricians, which was in protest at the transfer of 11 employees from London Bridge to Green Park. Union sources said the men were angry that a safety representative, who had pointed out deficiencies in fire alarms at London Bridge, was one of those transferred.

Peter Mandelson, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, who is responsible for the completion of the dome, is trying to ensure that the link is open in time for the celebrations. However, completion has been delayed because of industrial unrest and technical problems.

Senior managers believe the damage to equipment has been done by disaffected employees intent on delaying the project to prolong their employment.

### IN BRIEF

#### Le Shuttle strike threat lifted

DRIVERS OF Channel Tunnel shuttle trains yesterday called off four threatened pre-Christmas strikes after accepting a pay deal. Eurotunnel said it was "delighted". The drivers' union Aslef, which is not recognised by the company, said Eurotunnel had improved its original pay offer only because of the strike threat. Two staged increases will take the base salary from £17,200 to £18,700, the union said.

#### Hunger striker 'cause for concern'

A DOCTOR has been called to the prison bedside of Barry Horne, an animal rights campaigner who has been on hunger strike since 6 October. The Prison Service said his condition was "giving cause for concern". Horne, who is serving 18 years for arson, is protesting against the Government's failure to investigate the use of animals in medical experiments.

#### Shoplifter agrees to drug tests

A DRUG-ABUSING shoplifter has become the first criminal in Britain sentenced to a treatment programme aimed at ending his habit and criminal career. Prison failed to reform John Nimmer, 27, of Croydon, but probation officers hope an order for weekly random drug tests does the trick.

#### Anglo-Saxon cemetery found

MORE THAN 1,500 human skeletons believed to date from between the fifth and 11th centuries have been exhumed from the site of a proposed petrol station south of Dublin. The remains are thought to be from a cemetery of Anglo-Saxon traders.

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10/11/98



# Lords game of ping-pong sets the moths a-flutter

RARELY DOES the House of Lords quicken the pulse, but in the narrow passageway that leads into the press gallery, in which journalists wait while prayers are conducted, there was a moth's flutter of excitable cichlids yesterday. "Scorched earth," whispered one voice; "Uncharted waters" hissed another. I wondered for a moment whether this was my first encounter with rumour buzzing through the corridors of power, but the plucked aperture in question hardly qualifies for such a grand description and the most powerful person present was probably the clerk. Still, the bathos of the shortfall could be taken as appropriate because this whisper of anticipation had been provoked by the prospect of yet another debate on the European Parliamentary Elections Bill, a confrontation which is either Democracy's siege of the Alamo or the last silly indulgence of an indefensible anachronism, depending on your point of view.

THE LORDS have been playing ping-pong with the Commons over an amendment on the closed-list system, and the rally has lasted far longer than it should. At least, most people think they've been playing ping-pong, though Lord Callaghan described it as table tennis and Lord Tebbit thought it was another game altogether. "We have carried the ball several hundred yards down the pitch. We can now go for the line or kick for touch," he said, inviting peers to consider the merits of an amendment to the amendment to the amendment. The Lords decided it was simpler to go for the line, sending the Bill back to the Commons once more. It was at this point I realised what the game was – ping-pong played with a rugby ball, an exciting variation that removes the dull predictability of bounce from which the classic game suffers.

## THE SKETCH



THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

IT IS a sport, anyway, which produces some bizarre contortions from both teams. Urging his fellow peers to stand firm on the bastions

of local democracy Lord MacKay of Ardbrecknish pooh-poohed the Government's latest attempt at compromise, a pledge that there would be a review looking at how closed lists operated. "Talk about crumbs from a rich man's table," he said scornfully. Behind him rich men ribbed indignantly at the close-fisted arrogance of them up at the big House, like beaters deprived of an expected tip. On the other side Lord Evans of Parkside decided to try a disguised topspin, pointing out to Conservative peers how devastating it would be for Labour Party electoral fortunes if the Bill went through. Kill it, on the

other hand, and the party would be spared the embarrassment of internal division. Almost every Labour backbencher would silently thank them. He clearly wanted to alarm the opposition with the prospect of unintentional fellow-travelling but the issue has already forged some unusual cross-party alliances, and Conservative peers have been relishing the novelty of quoting renegade Labour backbenchers in their cause.

LORD PEYTON of Yeovil confessed to his colleagues that he had recently found himself "in very warm agreement with Mr Tony Benn". He chuckled at the thought of this unlikely turn of events. Lord Callaghan stormed back with a fine speech, attempting to tweak his colleague's sense of shame that an unelected body should overturn the decisions of an elected one. This is a powerful argument, the only powerful one the Government has, but it tends to have little force when aimed at men who think election is a rather vulgar way of entering Parliament. It was baited away by Lord Tebbit. It isn't often that it's hard to tear yourself away from a Parliamentary debate because you want to see who will win the day – but yesterday was one of those rare occasions.

# Blair furious at hereditary peers' revolt

THE GOVERNMENT was dealt a massive constitutional blow and faces the loss of legislation on the voting system for next year's European elections after it suffered an unprecedented fourth defeat by defiant peers yesterday.

In an increasingly bitter clash between the two Houses, the Lords voted by 261 to 198 – a majority of 63 – for an "open list" system which would allow electors to vote for named candidates.

The Government has already overturned three previous defeats, insisting on the "closed list" system under which electors can vote only for the party of their choice and not individual candidates.

Tony Blair condemned the defeat as an "affront to democracy", saying: "The Tories claim to be representing the interests of democracy yet can simply wheel out hereditary peers, elected by nobody, to overturn the democratically elected government. Every time they do so they make the case for the reform of the Lords."

## EURO ELECTIONS

BY SARAH SCHAEFER

Political Reporter

The European Parliamentary Elections Bill will go back to the Commons for the fifth time today and ministers will have to decide whether they will stand firm and continue the "parliamentary ping-pong" over the issue.

If no compromise is found until Parliament prorogues tomorrow, ministers are likely to rush through a new Bill during the new session of Parliament which opens later this month.

But Labour backbenchers both in the Commons and the Lords have joined peers in their criticism that closed lists are undemocratic because they would give too much power to the centralised party machine.

Summing up after a tense debate, Lord Williams of Mostyn, the Home Office Minister, warned peers that another government defeat would be a "wholly improper abuse of their power".

In an impassionate plea,

Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, the former Labour prime minister, urged the Tories to "stop playing games and call off the troops". He spoke of a "self-confessed hooligan tendency" in the Conservative Party, adding: "Are you really doing a service for the chorus of democracy? What gives you the right, being unelected and unaccountable to no one, to insist that the Government lose their Bill?"

Lord McNally, the Liberal Democrat spokesman, called the Opposition tactics a "constitutional outrage".

However, the Bishop of Hereford, the Rev John Keith Oliver, pronounced his dismay over the "closed lists" system, saying: "I agree that no system is perfect, but this system is the least perfect and the right thing for me to do by the democratic principle which has prevailed in this country for a very long time is to vote for open lists."

The Tory party leader, William Hague, said the defeat was "a victory for common sense and democracy".



Terresa May, the Conservative education spokeswoman, and Damian Green, the Tory MP for Ashford, who say the Government is introducing new rules that could mean as many as 36 children in a class when the pledge was to cut the number to 30. Mark Chivers

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## Ballot on future of grammar schools rigged, say Tories

GOVERNMENT PLANS to hold ballots on Britain's remaining grammar schools would "rig" the vote in favour of abolition, Tony Blair claimed yesterday.

The shadow Schools Minister, Damian Green, led an opposition onslaught on the proposals during a heated debate in the Commons. He claimed that it was unfair on parents that the question on ballot papers would not include the phrase "grammar school".

But the Schools Minister, Estelle Morris, told the Fifth Standing Committee on Education (Grammar School Bal-

## EDUCATION

BY BEN RUSSELL

Education Correspondent

lots) Regulations 1998, that all ballots would be unambiguous.

MPs approved the new regulations, effectively handing the decision on the future of the 166 remaining grammar schools to local parents. Under the rules, 20 per cent of parents must sign a petition to trigger a ballot on the future status of a selective school.

However, the Tories claimed that it was misleading to ask parents if they were in favour

of "all the schools listed introducing admission arrangements which admit children of all abilities". Mr Green said many parents would not realise the implications of a vote.

Phil Willis, a Liberal Demo-

crat education spokesman, also criticised the detailed rules, branding them a "dog's dinner".

Graham Lane, the education chairman of the Local Government Association, said the system was broadly fair. Tory attacks on the proposals were "the rantings of people living in the 1920s", he said.

There have already been

complaints from anti-selection campaigners that the rules favour some grammar schools. In some areas with scattered remaining grammar schools, only parents at "feeder" primary schools would have a vote.

It was also claimed yester-

day the campaign to abolish the last grammar schools has been taken up by parents in almost half the local authorities which still run selective schools. The Campaign for State Education said it had received expressions of interest from parents in 14 of the 36 authorities which still have grammar schools.

## Field calls for compulsory pensions

FRANK FIELD, former Welfare Reform minister, called yesterday for compulsory stakeholder second pensions, linked to average earnings, to end the "two nations in retirement" in Britain.

Ahead of the long-awaited Green Paper on pensions reform, Mr Field argued there

## SAVINGS

BY SARAH SCHAEFER

Political Reporter

should be pensions for all people in work aged 20 and over, with a guaranteed 30 per cent of average earnings for single pensioners once they retired.

Tony Blair hinted last week

that the pensions system was likely to be fundamentally reformed and Alastair Darling the Secretary of State for Social Security, has spoken out in favour of stakeholder pensions.

Introducing his Stakeholder Pension Bill, which was given a formal first reading by 36 votes to one, Mr Field said

under his measure the pensions would include special provisions for the poor and those who were not part of the labour market such as carers and parents looking after children under five years old.

The Bill has no chance of becoming law because of a lack of parliamentary time.

## Discounts cut

The Government came under heavy fire over plans to cut discounts for council tenants buying their homes from the current £50,000 maximum discount for council home buyers, to 60 per cent of the value of a house and up to 70 per cent of the value of a flat. Tories claimed such moves would cost tenants up to £28,000 each and affect 10 per cent of families nationally and 25 per cent in London.

Today's Business: Commons: 9.30am: Backbench debates on environmental effects of taxation, the pig and livestock industry, recent floods in South Wales, the proposal for a trial in The Hague for the alleged Lockerbie suspects, the use

## THE HOUSE



of private finance initiative by West Hertfordshire Health Authority. Cabinet Office questions. Treasury Minister's questions. The European Parliamentary Elections Bill, consideration of Lords amendments. Northern Ireland Bill, consideration of Lords amendments. Short debate on immediate health care on North Norfolk. Lords: Registration of Political Parties Bill. Short debate on the state of agriculture.

# Territorials' strength cut by 13,000

THE BIGGEST shake-up of Britain's reservists in their 80-year history was announced by the Government yesterday.

George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, said numbers in the Territorial Army would fall from 54,000 to 41,200, saving £70m a year.

The number of soldiers retained is 1,200 higher than first proposed in July, but will still mean halving the number of infantry battalions in the TA. Of the 455 TA centres across the country, 87 will be closed and sold, raising £40m for the Government.

Mr Robertson said the cuts were not just aimed at saving money, but were necessary to reform the TA. "We need a modern TA that is more relevant, more usable and more fully integrated into our armed forces, and our defence plans."

He said the TA needed to move away from its traditional image of "weekend warriors", training to defend the UK mainland from a Cold War invasion. Instead he wanted the service to concentrate on supporting the regular army and being more integrated into the armed forces.

Mr Robertson said: "I realise that some of our conclusions in the Strategic Defence Review have led us to make tough choices. But equally I remain convinced of the need for change, and to improve the TA for those who will continue to serve in it.

BY BOB ROBERTS

is only by facing up to the new challenges of the post-Cold War world that we will be able to build a territorial army for the future. Just as our regular armed forces must change to meet the demands of the modern world, so must our reserve forces."

John Maples, the Tories' defence spokesman, said the cut in numbers undermines the TA's traditional role of providing assistance in times of emergency.

The Liberal Democrat defence spokesman, Menzies Campbell, has warned that the cut could harm the regular army as the TA is seen as a way of attracting new recruits, and it could also end an armed force presence in large parts of the country.

Under the changes the present 33 battalions of infantry will be reduced to 15. They will be spread across the country and there will be consultations on what they will be called, to preserve historic regiment and battalion names. No traditional cap badges will be abolished.

Four new yeomanry regiments will be created, down from seven, but they will train on modern Challenger 2 battle tanks and reconnaissance vehicles.

The Army Medical Services in the TA will be increased by 2,000 so they have the ability to

set up four field hospitals in an emergency.

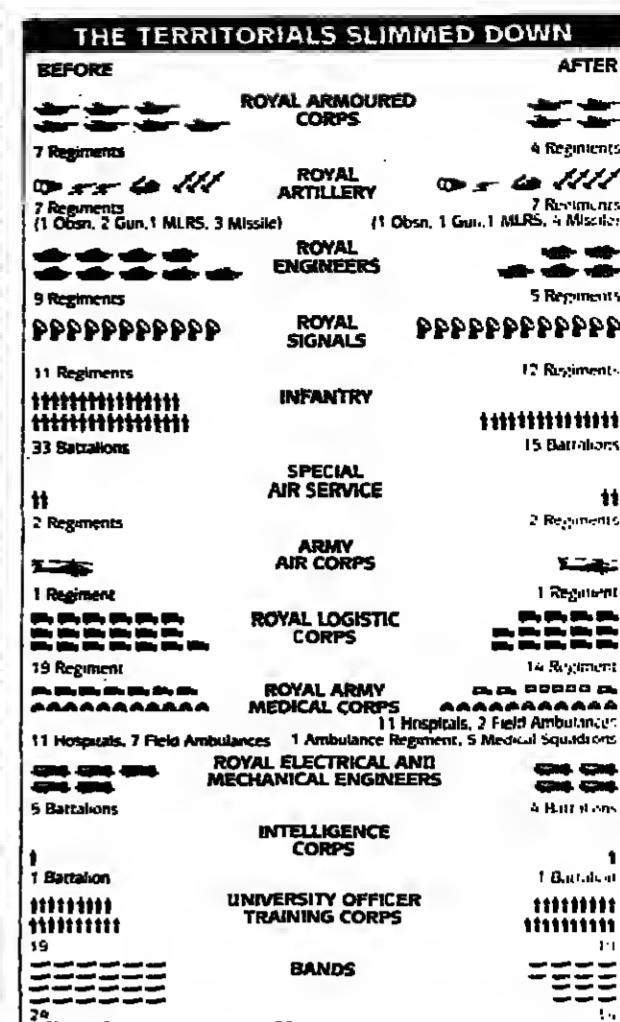
Two squadrons of Territorial Army soldiers will be created to deal with the possible nuclear, biological and chemical threats to Britain.

The two SAS regiments in the TA will be retained, as will the one regiment making up the Army Air Corps. The number of TA bands will go down from 24 to 14.

The Territorial Army in Scotland will be cut from 6,000 personnel to about 4,500. The Ministry of Defence also confirmed that it will close 14 TA centres around Scotland with 36 retained. Four centres will be retained for cadets only.



A female soldier crawling through netting on a Territorial Army assault course



## GP is jailed for attacks

BY MATTHEW BRACE

A POPULAR and hard-working GP who won the trust of young women patients and then groped them while they lay on his surgery couch, was jailed for three-and-a-half years yesterday for attacks stretching back over 17 years.

Dr Gerald Walmsley, 50, of Langton Green, Kent, a former assistant to a consultant gynaecologist, was found guilty of 10 charges of indecent assault relating to eight women between 1980 and 1997. Each happened after the GP had gone out of his way to help and reassure the women and when they felt at ease with him.

He was convicted at Maidstone Crown Court and now faces being struck off by the General Medical Council as well as being sued by at least two of the women.

The jury returned unanimous verdicts on nine charges and a majority verdict on the tenth. Walmsley denied all the charges and was still legally practising at his surgery in Tunbridge Wells until the trial.

### THE RIGHTS OF EVERY MAN

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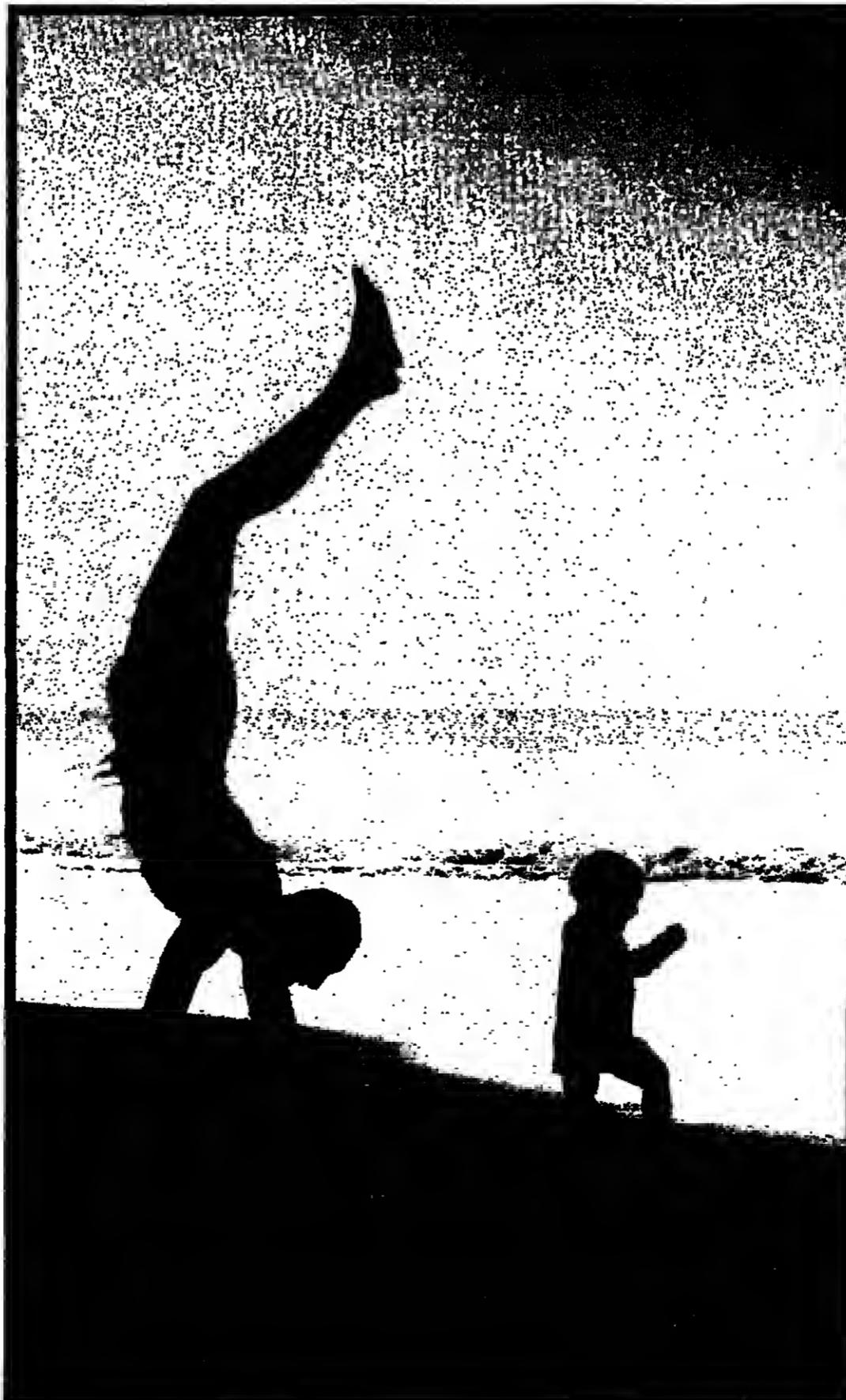
**Article 11**

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TAKE CARE OF AN INDUSTRY THAT TAKES CARE OF BRITAIN

# No more fishing-to-kill in effort to save salmon

ALL SALMON caught by anglers in England and Wales in the first half of the year will have to be put back into their rivers alive, the Environment Agency announced yesterday.

In a drastic attempt to protect rapidly dwindling stocks, it also announced restrictions on tackle that fishermen can use and said salmon net fisheries would be closed until June. The move has been prompted by plunging numbers in some of Britain's most celebrated salmon rivers.

An assessment in March showed catches in England and Wales in 1997 were among the worst on record, with the overall level of spawning well below that needed to maintain healthy sustainable fisheries.

In the River Wye in Wales, for example, which in recent decades has had an annual catch of about 3,500 fish, peaking at 7,000 in 1988, only 650 were caught last year.

The cause of the decline is uncertain: possibilities include over-fishing in rivers and at sea, and climate change altering the make-up of the

BY MICHAEL McCARTHY  
Environment Correspondent

fisheries. David Clarke, Earl in the year the situation was thought to be so serious that the agency considered banning salmon fishing completely but it was a prospect seriously alarming to the considerable hotel and tourist industry that depends on salmon fishing.

Yesterday the agency announced new by-laws governing salmon fishing. They are aimed in particular at protecting "springs", larger fish that have spent several years at sea and which return to their native rivers to spawn early in the year.

From next year all salmon in all rivers caught up to 16 June must be released. Worm is banned as a bait before then, with only fly or spinner allowed. Hook type and size is to be strictly controlled, with no more than one barbless hook with a maximum gape of 8mm although, to give the tackle trade time to adjust, this restriction will be delayed until 2000. Net fishing for salmon is to be banned before 1 June.

"There is a clear consensus that stocks of early-run salmon are under threat everywhere and that there is a need to take action to arrest further decline," said the agency's head



Such scenes may well become rarer with the imposition of restrictions designed to protect rapidly dwindling salmon stocks Glyn Kirk



## Warning by RUC on arms trade-off

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK  
Ireland Correspondent



Les Rogers: Fears "blank canvas for new terrorism"

SUBTLE PRESSURE is increasing towards a deal in which arms decommissioning would be put forward as a trade-off for the disbandment of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, police officers were warned yesterday.

Les Rogers, chairman of the Police Federation in Northern Ireland, declared that dismantling the force could "create a blank canvas for new terrorism and disorder to paint murder and mayhem unhindered" in an apocalyptic warning about the intentions of paramilitary groups, the prospects for peace, and the future of the force.

Speaking in Plymouth, Mr Rogers echoed Unionist demands for paramilitary arms decommissioning.

His views are seen as a reflection of the widespread unease among police officers, who see an uncertain future in a time of great change in Northern Ireland.

A commission, due to report next year on the future of policing, is widely expected to recommend a significant reduction in RUC numbers.

Mr Rogers, whose federation represents the RUC rank and file, said the IRA ceasefire was holding so far, and that there had been no verifiable IRA bombings or shootings of security-force members.

He added: "Yet Northern Ireland is not a peaceful society. To date this year there have been nearly 55 terrorist-related murders and since 1994 over 1,000 brutal assaults on civilians by paramilitaries."

"There is not so much an unseen war going on but an unacknowledged one, characterised by a level of violence which rose-coloured glasses are determined to define as peace only because of the contrast with what has gone on before."

Mr Rogers warned that republican and loyalist splinter

groups still posed continuing threats.

He also opposed any change to the RUC's name, badge or uniform, declaring: "Attacks on the name, in particular, are really attacks on the very existence of the RUC."

The senior Sinn Fein member, Gerry Kelly, immediately criticised Mr Rogers' speech, saying: "Mr Rogers is engaged in an attempt to maintain a stranglehold on policing here."

"The RUC is clearly incapable of policing in a fair or impartial manner. It must be disbanded and replaced with an unarmed, accountable and community-based policing service."

Mr Rogers' remarks on arms decommissioning, a process which is viewed as essential, will be viewed as valuable support by Unionist politicians, who insist that Sinn Fein cannot be admitted to government unless the IRA begins to disarm.

Few if any politicians, however, share his view that the scene is being set for an arms handover in exchange for RUC disbandment.

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Iraq faced its first tough taste of co-operation yesterday as Unesco inspectors returned to Baghdad

Amr Nabil/AFP

# UN weapons inspectors back in Iraq

BY RICHARD DOWNES  
in Baghdad

THE UNITED Nations mission to search for and destroy Iraq's weapons of mass destruction returned to the Iraqi capital with the threat of force hanging over the Baghdad government should it fail to co-operate with the UN agency.

Richard Butler, the chairman of Unesco, said he was looking forward to returning to normal operations after months of controversy.

Forty-eight staff including inspectors and administrators refused to comment on their inspection schedule. "We've got a lot of work to do. We've got priorities to sort out," said Caroline Cross, Unesco spokeswoman. "The work that's going

on between us and the Iraqi government is confidential. It is the business of the United Nations and Iraq. If we have any problems in our activities, it's our business to report this to Unesco headquarters and on to the security council and not to the international media."

Unesco has complained for months that its work has been undermined by Iraqi obstruction. In August, the Iraqi authorities stopped co-operation with inspectors who conducted spot checks on suspected sites at short notice.

At the end of October they ended all co-operation with Unesco, complaining that the agency was full of spies working for the CIA and the Israeli intelligence service, Mossad.

Mr Butler, Unesco's chairman, expressed the hope that this time there would be full co-operation from the Iraqi authorities. "Full access to anywhere we want to go. Everyone is saying that's what we should have. We want to test it as soon as possible," he said. The observers will be watching their mission very carefully.

The United States and Britain have warned of immediate military action without reference to the UN if there is any obstruction of the work of

the weapons inspectors. The UN envoy in Baghdad, Prakash Shah, has left New York and is expected to conduct intensive discussion with the UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan. Mr Shah was a key figure in preventing a huge military strike against Iraq over the weekend.

Describing the settlement as a "victory for diplomacy" he warned that it was far from carved in stone. "These are occasions which we would like to repeat but we cannot be sure that these are things which can happen again and again. I cannot guarantee or tell you anything authentically whether this agreement will survive or not," he said.

At the top of his list of meetings will be one with Mr Butler. Mr Shah is likely to impress on him the desirability of tread- ing carefully in the first few days of operation to avoid unbalancing a very delicate situation.

Mr Butler has been criti- cised by many in the United Nations for his brash manner and willingness to speak publicly about difficulties he is experiencing with the Iraqi authorities.

The stakes are high. Any rash decisions or outbursts from any party at this sensitive moment could reactivate the military option and bring an unannounced hailstorm of Tomahawk Cruise missiles.

## Lewinsky has it taped

BY ANDREW MARSHALL  
in Washington

IF MELODRAMA is your addiction, then run to get hold of the Lewinsky-Tripp tapes. The young White House intern poured out her heart to her "friend" Linda Tripp, seeking advice on her disintegrating relationship with a boyfriend - the President of the United States.

Yesterday they were released and replayed on every television channel. CNN, which had been bringing military analysis of Iraq for the past week, switched to discussions of dry-cleaning and adultery. All this is already available as a transcript, so the content does not matter. In any case, Bill Clinton has emerged the political victor, and Congress will struggle with impeachment hearings beginning tomorrow.

White House reaction was described as "somewhere between none and indifference".

All that is left is the human drama, for want of a better word.

The near-impeachment of Richard Nixon relived heavily on secret White House tapes that formed the centrepiece of the Watergate hearings.

Ms Lewinsky comes over as naive, foolish, over-trusting and somewhat self-absorbed, but basically understandable.

Ms Tripp, by contrast, is relentless. She hectors, demands,

wheedles and often fails to

sympathise. She is sarcastic and sometimes just plain mean.

But the temptation to judge

must be tempered by knowing

where each is now. Ms Tripp

recorded the conversations in

secret and is the subject of a

grand jury investigation in

Maryland. Ms Lewinsky, by

contrast, has just signed a con-

tract that will make her a dol-

lar millionaire.

Ms Tripp's taping habit has

its origins in the suggestion of

a friend, the literary agent

Lucianne Goldberg, that she

get firm evidence before writing

a book. The result was a set of

37 tapes that will doubtless be

the ideal Christmas present for

younger relatives, supplement-

ed in February by Monica's

Story, by Andrew Morton.

THE INDEPENDENT



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# Malaysia fury at Al Gore's 'interference'

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

A SUMMIT of Asian, American and Pacific leaders degenerated into bickering yesterday as the American Vice-President, Al Gore, was accused by the Malaysian government of encouraging political enemies on overthrowing it.

In a furious response to a speech delivered by Mr Gore on Monday night, the Malaysian Foreign Minister, Abdullah Badawi, accused him of "gross interference in the internal affairs of the country... Malaysia finds the incitement by the US government to lawlessness by certain elements within the country to use undemocratic means in order to overthrow a constitutionally elected government, most abhorrent."

Mr Gore defended his remarks, in which he praised the "brave people of Malaysia" and spoke approvingly of the political reform movement, which has gathered momentum since the sacking and arrest in September of the former deputy prime minister, Anwar Ibrahim.

"My point is very simple: these economies have some very difficult choices to make for reform to move forward. Democracy and freedom are the essential prerequisites for making those kinds of decisions and getting that kind of support," he said before a meeting with the Russian Prime Minister, Yevgeny Primakov.

"That is the American message and I am proud to deliver it here and anywhere I go."

Even before Mr Gore's speech, the annual summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum (Apec) was faltering, but in the diplomatic row between Malaysia and the US the worst fears of its participants have crystallised.



Gore: Praised the 'brave people of Malaysia'

said the Australian Prime Minister, John Howard.

Two hundred supporters of Mr Anwar demanded the resignation of the Malaysian Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad, yesterday and burnt images of him in demonstrations in Kuala Lumpur.

In the past few days, police have used tear gas and water cannon and even fired warning shots to break up similar demonstrations. Mr Abdullah said yesterday that Malaysia "would hold the US accountable for any rupture of... harmony arising from this irresponsible incitement".

Even before Mr Gore's speech the Malaysians were indignant about several meetings between Apec participants and Mr Anwar's wife, Wan Azizah Ismail, who has taken over leadership of the reform movement since her husband's arrest. The American Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, offered Mrs Azizah support, as did ministers from Canada and New Zealand.

The American announcement yesterday of a \$10bn (\$6.1bn) support package for the stricken economies of South-East Asia was eclipsed by the Palestinians. During a team photograph, Mr Gore stood at the opposite end of the line from the Malaysian Prime Minister, and the two avoided one another during a staged walkabout in the grounds of the hotel where the leaders are meeting.

US officials said Mr Gore was giving the same speech that was to have been delivered by President Bill Clinton, until he cancelled his attendance to deal with the crisis over Iraq.

Leading article, Review, page 3



A Palestinian looks at an Israeli bulldozer paving the ground for a road on his olive plantations in Nablus

AFP

## Israeli assembly set to ratify peace deal with Palestinians

BY PATRICK COCKBURN  
in Jerusalem

THE ISRAELI parliament was expected to vote overwhelmingly last night in favour of the land-for-security agreement reached with the Palestinians. Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, has repeatedly held up ratification of the Israeli-Palestinian deal, brokered by President Bill Clinton at Wye, Maryland, claiming that the Palestinians were in breach of its terms.

The latest obstacle was overcome yesterday when Mr Netanyahu said he had accepted assurances from Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, that he disavowed violence.

Earlier in the week the Israeli leader froze implementa-

tion of the Wye Agreement on the ground that Mr Arafat had threatened to resume the intifada uprising.

The government is sure of a majority in the Israeli parliament, the Knesset, because opponents of the agreement in its own ranks are outnumbered by the Labour party, Israeli-Arabs and members of the left-wing Meretz party, all of whom approve of a withdrawal on the West Bank.

The territory from which Israel will remove its troops over the next 12 weeks is only about 200 square miles. Under the

first phase of the withdrawal Israel will hand over 7.1 per cent of the West Bank to total Palestinian control and 2 per cent to joint control.

Last night members of the Knesset were for the first time to see maps showing the areas from which Israel is to withdraw.

Press reports suggest that these will be in the north of the West Bank between the Palestinian towns of Jenin and Nablus as well as south of Hebron. The Palestinians already control eight small enclaves on the West Bank as well as most of Gaza.

The speed with which Mr Arafat retracted his remark

that "our rifles are ready" to assert the Palestinian right to pray in Jerusalem shows his impatience to implement the agreement, signed on 23 October.

Strengthened by success in the mid-term elections and over Iraq, President Clinton is in a strong position to force both sides to comply with the terms of the deal. However, Israeli settlers are at the same time moving to establish new settlements on the West Bank, as they were recommended to do by Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Foreign Minister.

The Israeli organisation Peace Now says that seven settlements have been established since the Wye accord was agreed.

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# Le Pen ban exposes rift in far right

THE NATIONAL Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen was banned from politics for one year by a French appeal court yesterday, halving his previous sentence but presenting him with a potentially explosive dilemma.

If he accepts his punishment, Mr Le Pen will be prevented from leading the French far-right in the European elections next year, opening the way for his arch-rival, Bruno Megret, to claim the job. This could unleash a vicious war within the NF, the most powerful far-right party in Western Europe.

If he lodges a further appeal, delaying his sentence, Mr Le Pen, 70, risks being banned from running in the next presidential election in 2002. The likelihood of missing out on his fifth run for the presidency would have been much greater if his original two-year ban had been maintained.

It seems likely Mr Le Pen will seize the opportunity to check the rise of Mr Megret by lodging another appeal with the Cour de Cassation, France's

BY JOHN LICHFIELD  
in Paris

highest appeal court, thus postponing his punishment.

The regional appeal court in Versailles decided yesterday that the National Front president was guilty of assaulting a Socialist candidate during the general election campaign in May last year. Mr Le Pen was captured on television footage screaming in the face, and grabbing the clothes, of Amélie Poulvest-Bergeal, in Mantes-la-Jolie west of Paris, where she was running against the NF leader's daughter, Marie-Caroline.

Mr Le Pen, who has five days to appeal, dismissed the court's decision yesterday as "slimy". His previous three-month suspended prison sentence was maintained but his fine was cut from 20,000 francs (£2,200) to £5,000. He described his attack on the Socialist candidate as "a derisory incident" and claimed he had been the victim of an "ambush" by the "Socialo-Communist political forces, now running France".

The rallies were partly an attempt by Mr Le Pen to bolster internal NF support against Mr Megret. If banned from leading the NF list in the European elections, Mr Le Pen has said that he expects the top spot to go to his wife, Jany.

Mr Megret, a pragmatist who has built his own power base within the party, has said that he will challenge that decision and expects to take the job himself.



Jean-Marie Le Pen (right) at the European Parliament yesterday, when he learnt of his political ban. *Reuters*

## Protests force Paris to scrap riverside menagerie

BY JOHN LICHFIELD

THE RABBITS huddle in their cages. The hens squawk and preen. The ducks, close to the river but unable to swim, simply look bored. The birds and animals of the open-air market along the Quai de la Mégisserie along the Seine, Paris, loved by generations of the city's children.

But not for much longer. After complaints by animal rights groups and tourists, the Paris police have decided that the cages must be moved indoors - or taken away altogether - within

the next two weeks.

"This is unfair. It's grotesque," said one shopkeeper, as he swept the floor beneath his cage yesterday. "These animals are loved. They are spoilt. They have a wonderful life with us. How do you think animals are treated on farms? These people, the tourists especially, know nothing of the real world."

The market beside the Seine, near Châtelet, close to Notre Dame cathedral, has existed for

40 years. To its supporters, it is a breath of rural France in the heart of the capital. Hens, ducks, pheasants, turkeys, pigeons, goats, rabbits, dogs and cats wait in jumbled rows of cages, as if at a country market.

On weekends the pavements teem with people, most of them just looking. It's a kind of informal menagerie, a place for grandparents to bring their urban grandchildren and show them the hens and ducks.

To critics, the outdoor cages - mostly belonging to six or

seven pet shops scattered along that section of the quays - are a disgrace and a blot on the face of the capital. Animal protection groups say the creatures on sale are squashed into their cages and exposed to rain, wind or excessive heat. They say vendors don't check the ability of their clients to look after the animals they buy.

The Paris Prefecture of Police has decided the critics are right. After a study by its own veterinary services, the prefecture has given the shops

until 1 December to remove all the cages from the pavement. Open-air sales, the prefecture said, "do not allow the animals to be sheltered from extremes of climate and do not guarantee their comfort, given the smallness of the cages and the summary nature of their care".

The ruling points out that the creatures are exposed to pollution from the heavy traffic passing along the quays. They are also vulnerable to catching diseases from the flocks of feral pigeons that the cages attract.

The shops owning the outdoor cages are mostly quite small. There is no room to move the cages inside, the shopkeepers say. The ban will probably force them to give up selling some kinds of creatures altogether. This may force them to lay off staff, even to close.

"They say my hens are being polluted by cars. What about us humans? Are we not being polluted by the cars?" said another shop manager. "This is all the doing of a few tourists. Americans, Swedes, Germans mostly. They come in and complain. But it's just because they have nothing like this in their own country. If you take them away from their hamburgers, they know nothing."

Are these creatures, then, to eat? Not the dogs presumably, but the hens, the ducks, the rabbits? No, be insisted, people buy them to keep. But where do you keep hens or ducks or turkeys in Paris? "Ah, monsieur, I sell people these creatures. I don't question them closely on what they are going to do with them."

## IN BRIEF

### Oil workers released

EIGHT OIL workers abducted last week in southern Nigeria were released unharmed yesterday. The Texaco workers - three Americans, a Briton, an Italian, a Croatian, a South African and a Nigerian - were taken hostage by armed youths from the ethnic Ijaw community, who demanded a ransom.

### Huge military drill in India

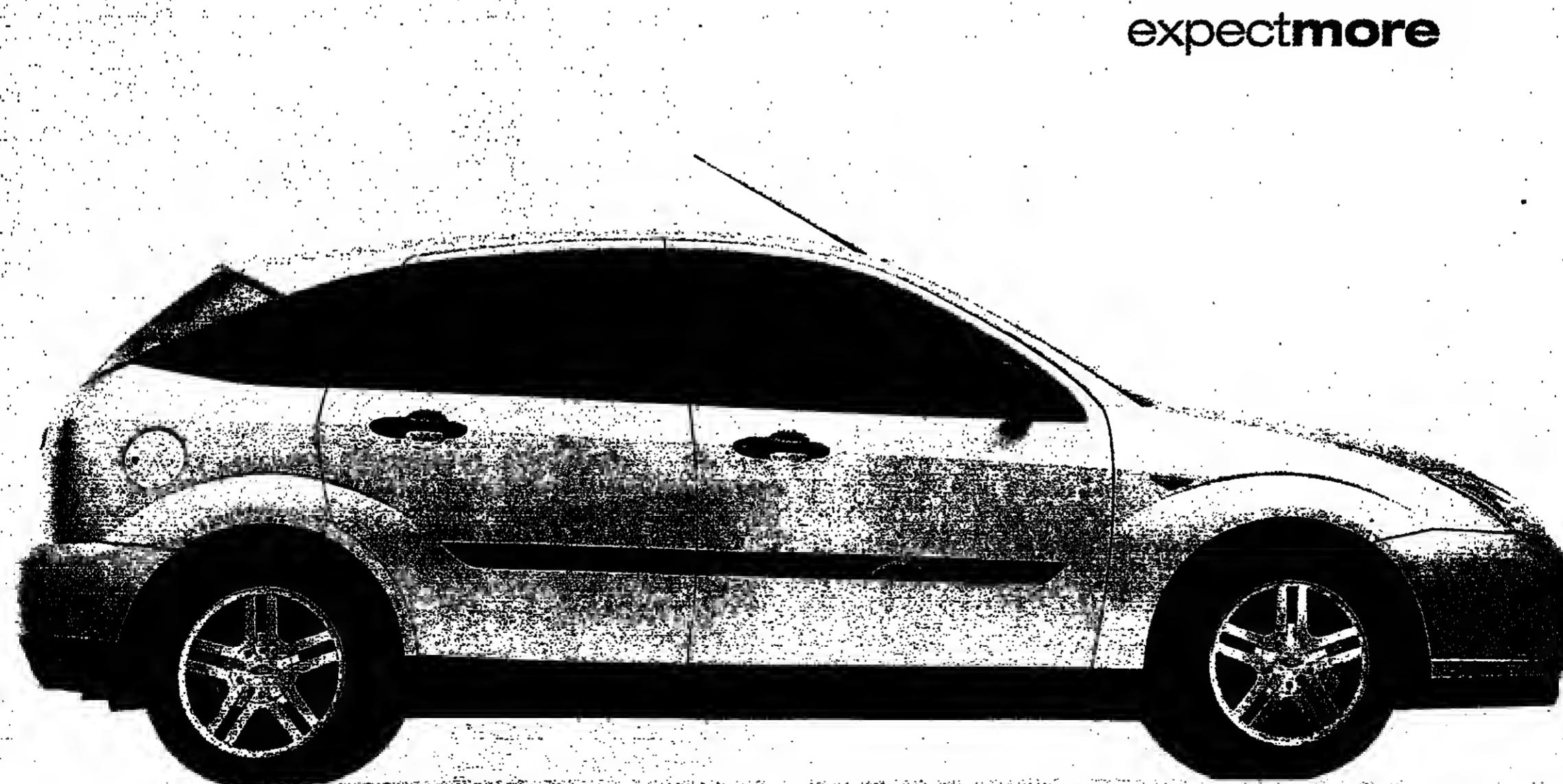
INDIA STAGED one of its biggest military exercises in a decade along its western coast yesterday, involving 10,000 officers and soldiers from the army, air force and navy. Admiral Vishnu Bhagwat, the navy chief, said the exercises had taken months of planning.

### Bonn: 'Share' refugees

GERMANY'S INTERIOR Minister, Otto Schily, yesterday defended his remarks that Germany was overburdened with immigrants and renewed calls for other EU members to take a greater share of refugees. Germany would continue to accept genuine asylum-seekers, he said.

### Shoot twice for help

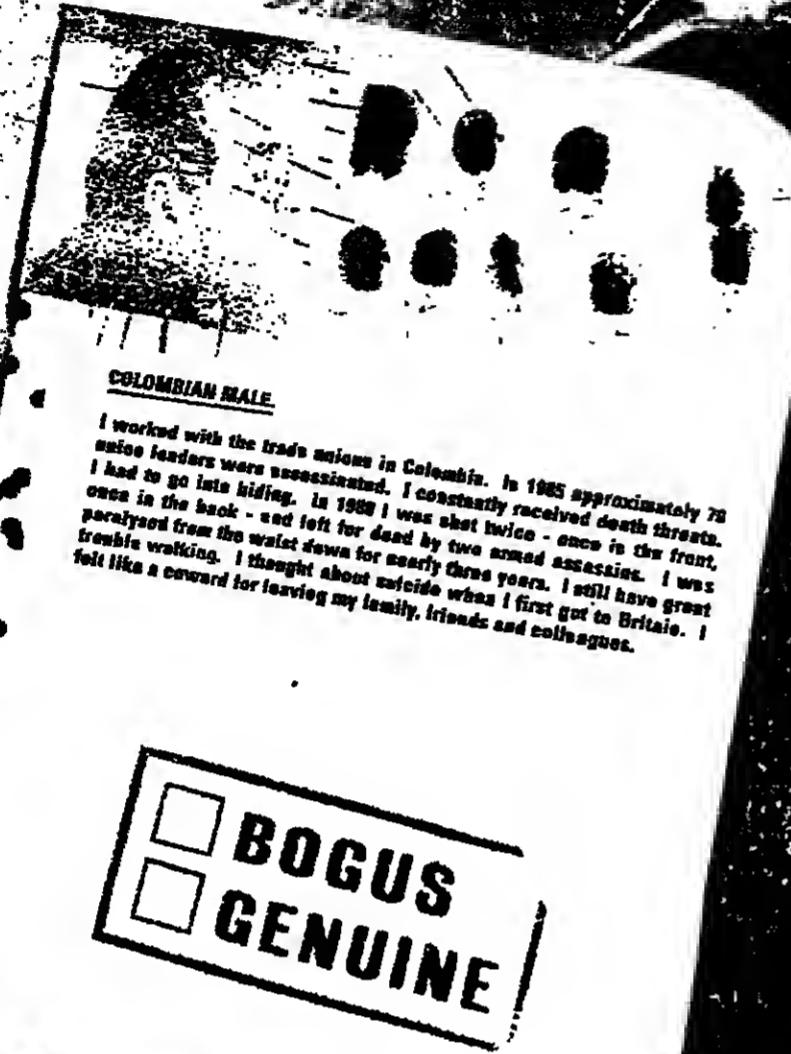
TELEPHONES ARE hard to come by in remote Albania, so a villager used what was handy to summon help when he saw a traffic accident - he fired his anti-aircraft machine gun. Police appreciated the gesture enough not to arrest the man for possessing the heavy weapon, but still confiscated the gun, Tirana newspapers reported yesterday.



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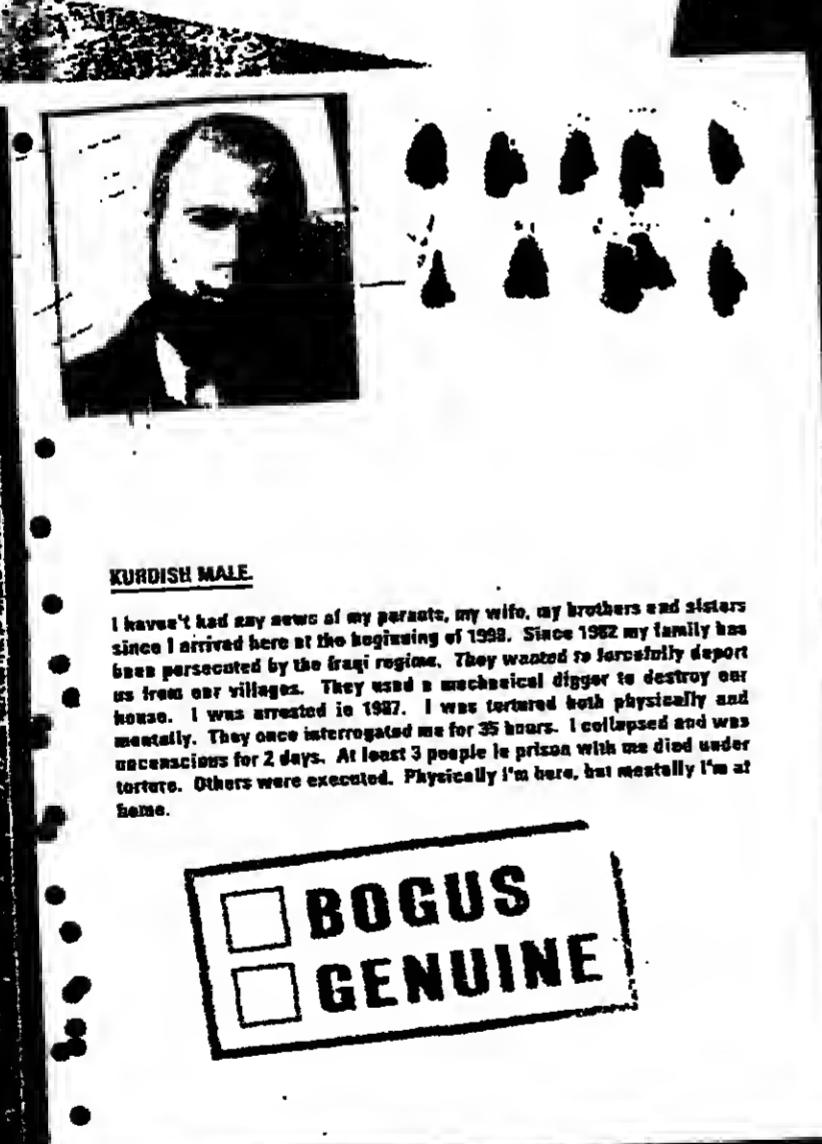
COLOMBIAN MALE

I worked with the trade unions in Colombia. In 1985 approximately 70 union leaders were assassinated. I constantly received death threats. I had to go into hiding. In 1990 I was shot twice - once in the front, once in the back - and left for dead by two armed assassins. I was paralysed from the waist down for nearly three years. I still have great trouble walking. I thought about suicide when I first got to Britain. I felt like a coward for leaving my family, friends and colleagues.



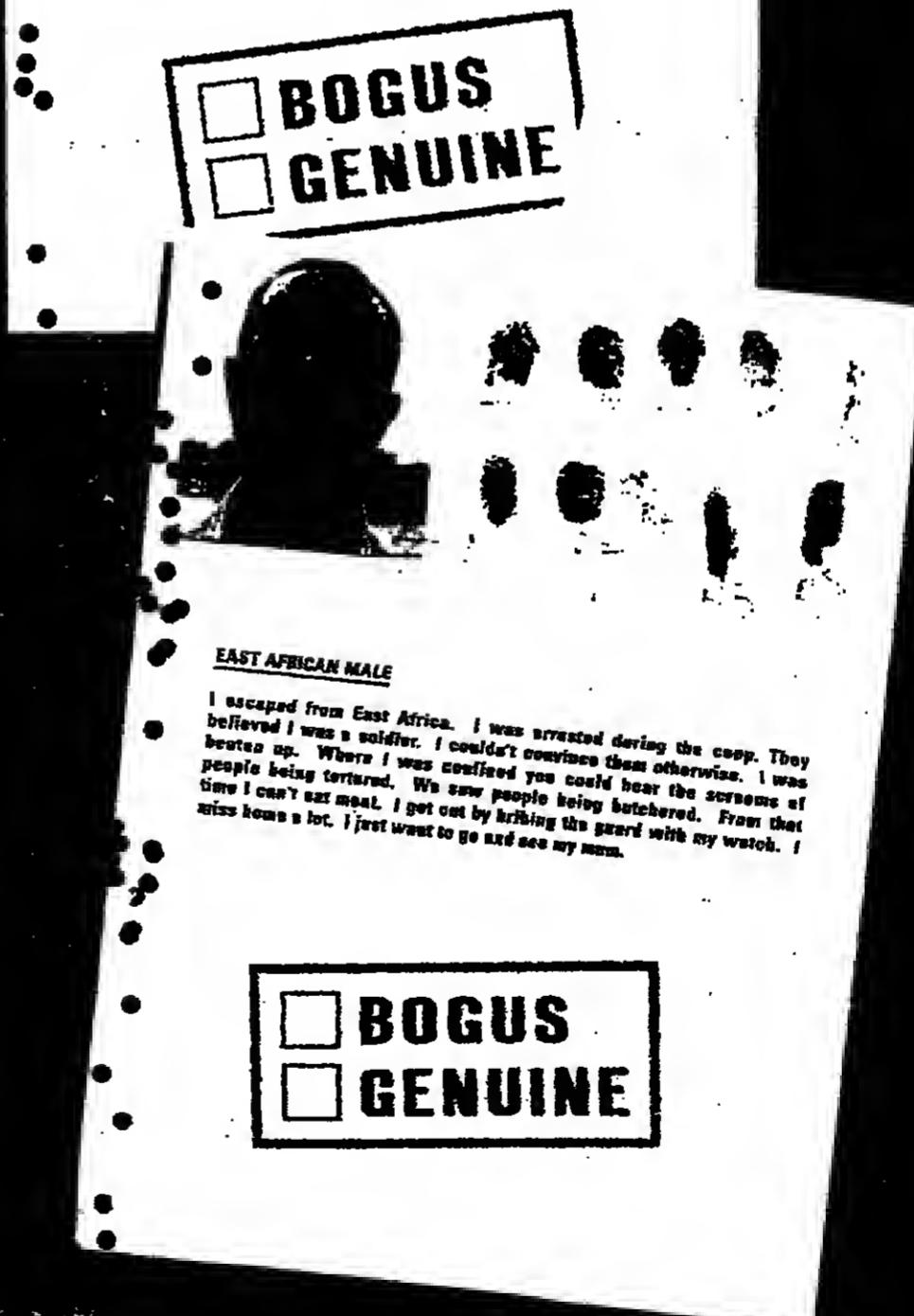
KOSOVAR FEMALE AND CHILD

I am 17. I come from Kosovo. At the moment it's terrible back home. It's war. They have massacred so many women and children. I had to leave because they tortured my father-in-law and he was begging me to save my daughter. I didn't have anything to pack because they burnt our house down. I had to borrow some clothes to start the journey. My husband is dead. He stepped on a landmine. I received the news by fax. I lost all hope. I have no hope now.



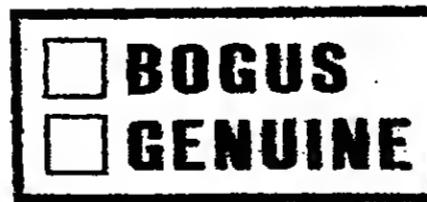
KURDISH MALE

I haven't had any news of my parents, my wife, my brothers and sisters since I arrived here at the beginning of 1992. Since 1982 my family has been persecuted by the Iraqi regime. They wanted to forcibly deport us from our villages. They used a mechanical digger to destroy our houses. I was arrested in 1987. I was tortured both physically and mentally. They once interrogated me for 35 hours. I collapsed and was unconscious for 2 days. At least 3 people in prison with me died under torture. Others were executed. Physically I'm here, but mentally I'm at home.



EAST AFRICAN MALE

I escaped from East Africa. I was arrested during the coup. They believed I was a soldier. I couldn't convince them otherwise. I was beaten up. When I was confined you could hear the screams of people being tortured. We saw people being butchered. From that time I can't eat meat. I got out by bribing the guard with my watch. I miss home a lot. I just want to go and see my mom.



Can you spot who's telling the truth? Make the right judgement. Also already got the right to fingerprint, interrogate and detain. Soon they'll be given the power of arrest as part of the Government's plan to make the system fairer, faster and firmer. So make your decision. Make it firm. Make it fast. But please, make it fair. It's tough being an immigration officer. It's even tougher being a refugee.

[www.refugeecouncil.org.uk](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk) or 0207 8303055

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THE INDEPENDENT  
Wednesday 18 November 1998

FOREIGN/19

## Clinton calls for embryo inquiry

BY STEVE CONNOR  
Science Editor

BILL CLINTON has asked his most senior advisers on scientific ethics to investigate the claims of an American biotechnology company that it has created a hybrid embryo from human skin cells and a cow's egg.

In a letter to the US National Bioethics Advisory Commission, President Clinton said that he is "deeply troubled" by reports that Advanced Cell Technology of Worcester, Massachusetts, created the part-cow, part-human hybrid in an experiment three years ago.

The commission is meeting this week in Miami to discuss the ethical implications of the claims made by the company, which said it had created a 32-cell embryo by fusing the nucleus of a human skin cell with a cow's egg that had had its nucleus removed.

Tom Murray, the director for biomedical ethics at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland and a member of the commission, said there was some scepticism about the "chimeric embryo" from other scientists who have criticised the company for not publishing the research in a journal. "I'm surprised that anyone would have tried it. Scientists are highly sceptical because the basic ground work was not done," he said.

While President Clinton expressed concern about the "mingling of human and non-human species", his letter is more positive about the potential benefit of combining embryo and cloning technology to create human embryonic stem cells, which can be used to grow into a wide range of tissues for transplant operations.

Scientists made an important breakthrough this month in being able to isolate embryonic stem cells from human embryos.

They believe it might be possible to create stem cells of a patient by cloning and use them to treat illnesses, from Parkinson's disease to cancer.



The first Gay Pride parade in Corpus Christi, Texas this summer. Campaigners are hoping to overturn the state's anti-gay laws

AP

## Activists back challenge to Texas anti-gay laws

BY ANDREW GUMBLE

TWO MEN are due to be arraigned for sodomy in Houston, Texas on Friday, in a case that has provoked outrage among gay groups across the country. The fact that homosexual acts between consenting adults in private are still outlawed in Texas is one cause of the furor. But what has triggered it at this particular time are the circumstances of the arrest.

On 17 September - an incident that has only just come to wider notice - Houston police burst into a suburban private apartment. They expected to find an intruder "going crazy" with a gun, as the neighbour who called them out had described. Instead, they found two men allegedly having sex in their own bedroom.

The informant, who ap-

peared to have a grudge against gays, was charged with filing a false report and sentenced to 15 days in jail. But John Geddes Lawrence, 55, and Tyrone Garner, 31, were arrested too, under Texas's 119-year-old sodomy law, and held in custody for several hours before being released on bail.

Gay groups across the country are rallying around the two accused. "It is just unbelievable that in 1998 this sort of arrest could happen," said a lawyer for the two men, Mitchel Katine.

"It is a terrible experience for any of us to be arrested for what we did in the privacy of our own home with a consenting adult."

Even by the standards of Texas, one of 22 US states with

anti-sodomy laws on its statute books and one of only six with legislation specifically directed against homosexuals, this has been an unusual case. There have been only a handful of prosecutions in the past 30 years.

But popular and political support for the anti-sodomy laws in such a conservative southern state remain strong. The state legislature agreed five years ago that Texas's anti-sodomy laws violated privacy norms, but scrapped them only for heterosexual couples.

When they appear before the Justice of the Peace, Mr Lawrence and Mr Garner will have the option to pay a \$500 (£300) fine and close the case. But several advocacy groups, as well as the local prosecutor's of-

fice, hope they will contest the charges so that their case can be used to throw the statute off the books.

"The case may well be a landmark test of the right to privacy in American law," the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission said. Gay groups are calling for financial support, should the case turn into a protracted battle.

Several previous attempts to challenge the Texas anti-sodomy law have failed for lack of a criminal case to take to the superior courts. Mica England, a lesbian who was turned down for a job with the Dallas police department on the ground that a woman committing crimes in her private life could not enforce the law in public, won a dis-

crimination lawsuit in 1994 but failed to persuade the state Supreme Court that the anti-gay law was unconstitutional.

"We always said the best way to get rid of a bad law is to enforce it," District Attorney John Holmes said, explaining why he was going ahead with the case against Mr Lawrence and Mr Garner. He wants to give the case the chance to climb far enough through the system for the law to be challenged.

In 1986, the US Supreme Court upheld Georgia's sodomy laws, arguing that the right to privacy did not extend to homosexual acts. But the nine-member court was split 5-4 and one of the justices who voted in favour of the anti-sodomy laws, the late Lewis Powell, later said he had been wrong.

## Look what's talking now

AMERICAN TIMES  
LOS ANGELES

THE PHONE rings, but nobody is there. Or rather, nobody human. "A call is coming through for you," says a computer voice. "Please don't hang up."

In a country quenched by the use of letters as well as numbers on the telephone dial pad, the services of a receptionist are rapidly being discarded in favour of recorded messages such as: "If you know the name of the person you are calling, please dial the first three letters of their name now."

If you don't have any particular name at hand, all you can do is wait with frustration or wait in the ever-vainer hope that the computer will eventually shut up to be replaced, as the jargon has it, by a representative who will assist you shortly.

These experiences are alienating enough, but the new trend goes even further. Computers not only receive phone calls; they make them.

If you wish to try our great range of household cleaning products, please stay on the line while... Slam. "Good morning! Have you ever..." Click.

Even more insidious than the computers doing their pathetic best to sound like human beings, though, are the human beings on the line who sound disconcertingly like computers.

These are the telemarketers, the women (for they are almost always women) paid some miserable piece rate to recite a carefully prepared list of questions - a task they undertake with as much passion as Radio 4's shipping news, while talking five times as quickly. "Good morning sir I'd like to ask you a few questions about the car you recently acquired was it a lease or a purchase what was the make of the vehicle was it new or used how did you finance the vehicle?"

You could probably tell them you bought a space shuttle with a stolen credit card and they wouldn't flinch.

ANDREW GUMBLE

## Now you can Talk to your Time PC!

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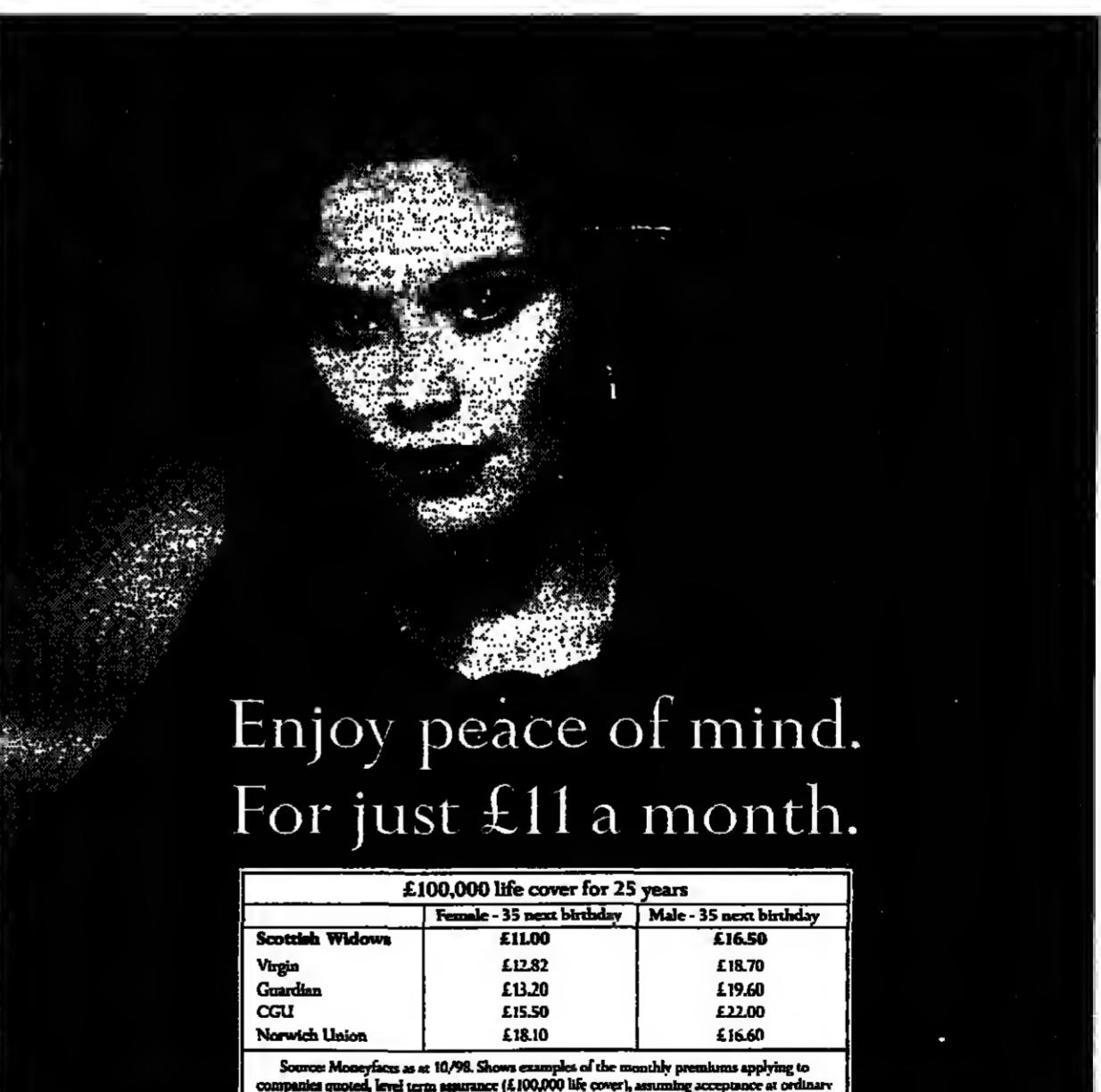
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# BUSINESS

## BRIEFING

### Alstom to shed up to 400 UK jobs

ALSTOM, THE Anglo-French engineering, transport and energy giant, warned yesterday that it planned to axe 300-400 jobs in the UK over the next six months. The job cuts will fall mainly at its Metro-Cammell rail division in Birmingham, which has won a £1bn order for high-speed tilting trains for the Virgin West Coast Mainline route.

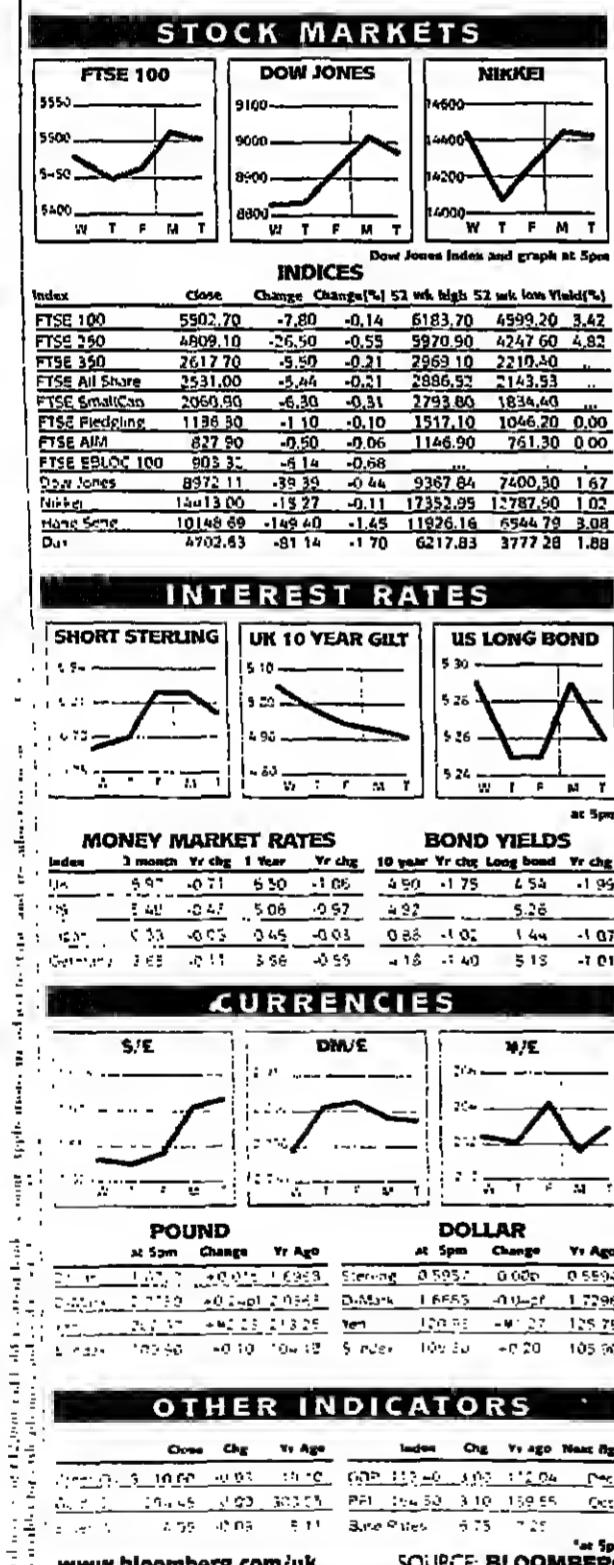
Pierre Bilger, Alstom's chairman, said it expected to shed a total of 12,500 jobs over the next 18 months at a cost of £318m, to cope with the likely decrease in orders caused by the world economic downturn. Alstom's maiden results following flotation in June showed an 8 per cent rise in operating profits to £204m in the six months ended September.

### FirstGroup forecasts slowdown

 FIRSTGROUP, THE rail, bus and airports operator, yesterday forecast that passenger growth on its three rail franchises would halve to about 4 per cent over the next six months because of the economic downturn. Trevor Smallwood, its executive chairman, said it expected leisure and off-peak travel on its Great Western, North Western and Great Eastern routes to slow. Bus travel may also be affected, but he said the introduction of an £85m fleet of new passenger-friendly low-floor buses had the potential to grow traffic levels by 5 to 10 per cent. First-half pre-tax profits rose 40 per cent to £45m on sales up by 83 per cent to £690m due to the acquisition of Great Western, which operates train services between Paddington and the West Country.

### Hoechst plans demerger

HOECHST, THE German chemicals giant believed to be on the brink of a £26bn merger with Rhône-Poulenc of France, yesterday announced plans for an ICI-style demerger of its life sciences and industrial chemicals business. Hoechst shareholders will be issued one new share in Celanese AG, the chemicals company for each 10 Hoechst shares they own. Peter Mackay, at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, estimates the value of the demerged companies could reach DM68bn (£25bn) within two years, as against DM46bn now. The demerger news helped deaden the blow of an 87 per cent slump in third quarter net earnings to DM60m (£22m).



### TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	2.5583	New Zealand (NZ\$)	15.22
Canada (\$)	15.05	Netherlands (guilder)	3.0545
Denmark (króna)	55.00	New Zealand (\$)	2.3965
Finland (markka)	1.5160	Norway (krone)	12.16
Germany (DM)	0.7000	Portugal (escudos)	275.89
Iceland (króna)	10.57	Saudi Arabia (riyal)	6.1097
Ireland (pound)	1.2723	Singapore (S\$)	2.6048
Italy (lira)	1.1723	Spain (peseta)	230.42
Iceland (króna)	1.1723	South Africa (rand)	0.0905
Japan (yen)	157.82	Sweden (krone)	13.13
Malta (lira)	12.31	Switzerland (franc)	2.2415
Norway (krone)	1.0350	Thailand (baht)	55.48
Portugal (escudos)	63.80	Turkey (lira)	477.64
Spain (peseta)	6.0000	USA (\$)	1.6380
Switzerland (franc)	1.2633		
UK (pound)	1.1519		
USA (dollar)	0.6000		
Malta (lira)	1.0489		
Spain (peseta)	0.6000		

Thomas Cook

# BUSINESS

## Worries about corporate profits prompt US rate cut

THE UNITED States cut interest rates again yesterday, because of continuing worries about the financial health of America's corporations.

The Federal Reserve announced a quarter-point cut in the Federal Funds rate, taking it to 4.75 per cent from 5.0 per cent, and a surprise quarter-point in the discount rate, from 4.75 per cent to 4.5 per cent. This is the third reduction in the Fed Funds rate in two months, following the Fed's summer shift from concern about rising inflation and wage trends to worries about flagging growth and a liquidity crunch.

"Although conditions in financial markets have settled

BY ANDREW MARSHALL  
in Washington

while keeping inflationary pressures subdued," it added.

Though the market had been anticipating a cut in interest rates, cheers rang out from the floor of the New York Stock Exchange as the news was announced. The US economy is still growing at a good pace, according to the most recent data, but there are concerns that corporate profits are down and investment remains at a standstill.

There are still worries that the difficulties in lending markets which forced the hedge fund Long Term Capital Management to the wall might hurt other financial sector companies. At the same time, despite continuing growth and a slight rise in inflation, the Fed sees no risk of an inflationary spiral.

"Financial conditions can reasonably be expected to be consistent with fostering sustained economic expansion

same day as a very timely report from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, which predicted a further decline in borrowing costs. It said that the Fed would reduce rates to 4.5 per cent during 1999, and anticipated further declines if the global economy continued to show signs of distress.

"With labour costs running ahead of prices, the fall in profits could accelerate, raising the risk of a drop in equity prices and a significant fall in investment," the OECD warned.

"The reaction of financial markets to lower profits will be critical. Another drop in the stock market could depress consumer sentiment further and push the economy towards recession."



Alan Greenspan: Third cut in two months

## Brown too optimistic on growth, warns OECD

THE OECD yesterday predicted that UK economic growth would be considerably weaker than Treasury and Bank of England forecasts, and recommended further cuts in interest rates.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development - which cut its forecasts for growth in all industrialised countries - believes the UK economy will grow by 0.8 per cent next year

BY LEA PATERSON

and by 1.5 per cent in 2000. The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, is predicting growth of between 1 and 1.5 per cent next year, and between 2.25 and 2.75 per cent in 2000. Bank of England forecasts are similar.

In its latest "Economic Outlook", the OECD concludes: "Given weakening economic prospects, the margin for manoeuvre to soften the over-

all policy stance [that is, to reduce interest rates] should increase. Provided inflation remains under control, this margin should be used."

According to the OECD, UK growth could be even weaker than forecast if economic conditions in Japan fail to improve or if the Bank delays further interest-rate cuts because of misplaced concerns about domestic wage pressures.

The latest OECD forecasts

coincided with more evidence of the UK's continuing economic slowdown. Inflation hit target for the third successive month, according to new official figures, partly because tough conditions on the high street have prompted sharp falls in clothing and footwear prices.

The underlying rate of inflation targeted by the Bank remained unchanged at 2.5 per cent in October, while the overall level of retail price inflation fell by 0.1 points to 3.1 per cent, its lowest level since June 1997.

Goods inflation hit an all-time low of 1.1 per cent, and services inflation - down 0.1 points to 3.4 per cent - would have fallen further had it not been for the introduction of university tuition fees.

Jonathan Loynes of HSBC Securities said: "I think there's a good chance that inflation will fall decisively below target over the next six months, helping the

Monetary Policy Committee to bring rates down further."

Separate figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) revealed that the Government's budget surplus was a larger-than-expected £7.9bn in October.

The OECD said it expected the Government to meet "comfortably" its golden fiscal rule - that is, only borrow to invest - over the course of the economic cycle.

## Investors go cool on \$2bn F1 bond

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

The European Competition Commissioner, Karel Van Miert, is examining Mr Ecclestone's 15-year exclusive agreement with the governing body of motor sport, the FIA, giving him the right to promote Formula One grand prix events until 2010. It is also investigating his exclusive television licensing agreements with broadcasters around the world to establish whether these are anti-competitive.

Meanwhile, the European Commission added to the uncertainty over the issue by saying that its investigation into the running of Formula One and Mr Ecclestone's exclusive deal to license television rights would not be complete before the end of the year. Sources close to Morgan Stanley, lead arranger of the offer last night, described the reports of investor apathy as "unsubstantiated rumour", adding that there were no signs of anxiety.

However, one banker suggested that the odds against a successful offer had lengthened from 5/5 to 80/20. Whether or not the issue went ahead would depend on how much risk Morgan Stanley and remaining banks in the syndicate would underwrite, he said.

Banks said to have been approached include Deutsche Bank, Merrill Lynch, Salomon Brothers, Morgan Stanley and Warburg Dillon Read. One report said two or three banks refused to participate. Other sources close to the offer said the reaction among a number of leading banks had been "non-committal".

Formula One has strongly rejected the claims, pointing out that the prospectus for the bond issue contains 16 pages detailing risk factors and that it believed it would be able to satisfy the EC's competition concerns.

The \$2bn bond will pay interest only for the first five years and is due to repaid in full by 2020. The prospectus shows that Formula One's contracted gross revenues are \$407m for next year, \$422m in 2000 and \$424m in 2001.

Outlook, page 21

## Mobile phone shortage looms

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

matched by Tesco, selling a similar offering from Vodafone.

More than one million new mobile users are expected to sign up in the final quarter of the year, taking the total number of UK users to more than 11 million. Most growth is expected to be in pre-paid mobile phones - packages where the user pays for the phone and calls it up front without signing a contract or paying a monthly subscription charge.

The shortage is the result of a buying frenzy, spurred on by heavy discounting by supermarket retailers. Asda is offering consumers a Cellnet phone and £10 worth of free calls for just £69.99. The offer has been

# Pit stop for Bernie's Grand Prix bond

OTHER THAN Bernie Ecclestone himself, everything about Formula One is big. The hype is mighty, the crowds enormous and the TV audiences gigantic. What Mr Ecclestone and the bankers at Morgan Stanley are about to discover is whether the risks attached to buying Formula One's \$2bn bond offer are also unacceptably large.

In his eagerness to cash in on the success of Formula One, Mr Ecclestone has drawn unwelcome attention to himself and that has scarcely helped his cause. Until his abortive attempt to float the business, no-one, including the racing teams themselves, had really focussed on what a goldmine Bernie and his wife were sitting on.

The draft prospectus for the bond issue may be sketchy in many respects, including the nature of his contractual relationships with the F1 teams. But it does open a window onto the commercial value of his right to promote the grand prix circuit and sell the television rights. In 1999, for instance, contracted gross revenues of Mr Ecclestone's empire will be \$407m, of which \$227m relates to revenues from television.

Unfortunately, the scale of the profits to be had from Formula One have also alerted the attention and interest of the competition authori-



## OUTLOOK

ties and the media. This week's Panorama investigation of Mr Ecclestone's empire has unquestionably left a pall hanging over the bond issue which may be enough to dampen investor enthusiasm fatally.

The more serious threat comes from the European Competition Commissioner, Karel Van Miert. He has taken on bigger fish than Mr Ecclestone and fried them - witness British Airways' decision to drop its alliance with American Airlines. So Brussels can't be underestimated.

Mr Van Miert is examining the stranglehold Mr Ecclestone has over Formula One through his exclusive agreement with the sport's governing body, the FIA, to promote it and his exclusive deals to sell the lucrative television rights. If Mr Van

Miert decrees these are anti-competitive, he may want to unravel the arrangements or at least shorten the existing television contracts.

Mr Ecclestone's supporters say it would not matter if the contracts were shortened since he still retains ownership of the sport and therefore the ability to auction the rights to another operator.

Based on the way television revenues have exploded, these rights should be very valuable indeed. However, securitisations such as this one, which matures in 20 years time, depend on long term revenue streams to repay the interest and the principal. Even if it can eventually be proven that the sums stack up, sentiment may be against him.

**The FSA**

IT'S ODD that an organisation whose creation was announced a little more than a year ago was generally welcomed as a bold and necessary reform is now the object of such a wall of hostile comment and rhetoric. That organisation is, of course, the Financial Services Authority.

When Gordon Brown revealed that he was splitting banking supervision from the Bank of England and consolidating it with other forms

of financial regulation into a single City regulator, there were plenty of warnings about the potential for an overbearing and oppressive bureaucracy and the dangers of combining wholesale and retail regulation of financial services, but on the whole the proposal was well received.

Commentators concentrated more on the positive advantages of a one stop shop system of regulation which mirrored the blurring of edges between different parts of the financial services industry - than the negative.

So what's happened to change the position? The truth is that the underlying position may not have changed very much, that broadly City practitioners are still reasonably positive, but certainly since the Financial Services Bill was published in the summer, the negative has had the bigger share of column inches.

Concern lies in four areas. First, the new authority's proposed disciplinary powers and procedures are criticised as potentially oppressive and unjust, that the FSA by acting as investigator, prosecutor, judge and jury could infringe basic human rights and laws of natural justice.

The second area of concern is the FSA's perceived lack of accountability, either to Government and par-

liament, which are responsible for its creation, or to the City, which is funding the whole exercise. Third is a resurfacing of worry about whether combining wholesale and retail regulation is an appropriate structure, given how different the needs of investors are in these two markets, and the consequent safeguards required.

And finally there is the general concern about excessive cost and red tape, and the effect this might have on the competitiveness of the City. All these concerns need to be addressed in some shape or form, but whether they justify root and branch reform of the Bill is another matter. In each case there is another side to the coin. Take the proposed disciplinary powers. In point of fact they are no different from the powers of existing financial regulators, but bundled together in one overmighty regulator they admittedly seem a lot more daunting. On the other hand, is it not just a little curious that so much attention is being focused on the interests of regulated firms and individuals when the whole point of financial regulation is to defend the interests of investors and depositors. These things are obviously a question of balance, but certainly the FSA needs extensive powers of redress on behalf of these people.

As it is the FSA has already com-

mitted itself to a clear separation of those investigating alleged breaches and those responsible for disciplinary proceedings, but it may be that the Bill will need to be reformed to meet the requirements of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Perhaps more serious are the allegations of lack of accountability and excessive red tape. The FSA does have statutory objectives to pursue and there are a series of general duties, such as to consult with practitioners on costs, which must be observed: it is required to report to parliament and the board dominated by non-executives and the executive will be further constrained by a practitioners forum, which already boasts some top drawer City names. To go further would mean giving ministers and/or practitioners direct powers of intervention, which in turn would run counter to the idea of independent regulation.

On red tape, there is scant evidence of this so far, or certainly there seems no additional burden other than a great outpouring of consultation documents to respond to. Since one of the FSA's proposed statutory obligations is to take account of the competitiveness of financial markets, there should actually be an inbuilt bias against it.

In the end, the best safeguard against abuse is the City itself. It is plainly out in the FSA's interests to kill off the goose that lays the golden egg, quite literally in the FSA's case because the City pays its costs. By the same token, as Howard Davies, chairman of the FSA has so marked, it is very much in the interests of financial institutions to have a system of regulation whose costs have to be justified principally to those who pay them.

## UBS resists pressure to sell Warburg

BY ANDREW GARFIELD  
Financial Editor

However in the bank's quarterly letter to shareholders, Dr Krauer made it clear that a sale or demerger was not on the cards. "Warburg Dillon Read is the only European member of the global hedge bracket and enjoys a strong and differentiated competitive position at a time when growth in the European capital markets is expected to accelerate over the medium to long term," he said.

He added that the division's strategic importance was underlined by the "increasingly important linkages" between Warburg Dillon Read and UBS Private Banking. However, the chairman said that given the uncertain outlook for financial markets, Warburg was reviewing its business to ensure that costs met the "expected revenue opportunity".

UBS Brinson, the asset management business, saw growth slow slightly. However, the bank admitted yesterday that the City fund management business, Phillips & Drew, had been badly hit by an outflow of institutional cash.

### IN BRIEF

#### Mediacom makes agreed £27.9m bid for advertising buying group

MEDIACOM, a subsidiary of Grey Advertising of the US, yesterday announced an agreed £27.9m cash offer of 107p per share for The Media Business Group, which specialises in buying newspaper advertising space and TV airtime. TMBG, which will merge with Mediacom's UK operation, will continue to be headed by founder Allan Rich, who agreed to sell his 30 per cent stake for £2.4m. TMBG shares closed at 104.5p, 36 per cent up on the day.

#### Mitel signs with Energis in UK

ENERGIS, the telecoms group controlled by the National Grid, has signed up Mitel, the equipment manufacturer, to resell its telecoms services in the UK. The news emerged yesterday as the Energis chief executive, Mike Grabiner (pictured), yesterday reported that losses had more than halved to £1.6m in the six months to 30 September. Revenues grew by 57 per cent to £66.4m, helped by the acquisition of Planet Online, the Internet service provider Energis bought earlier this year. The shares jumped 11p to 870p.

#### Airbus wins \$1bn jet order

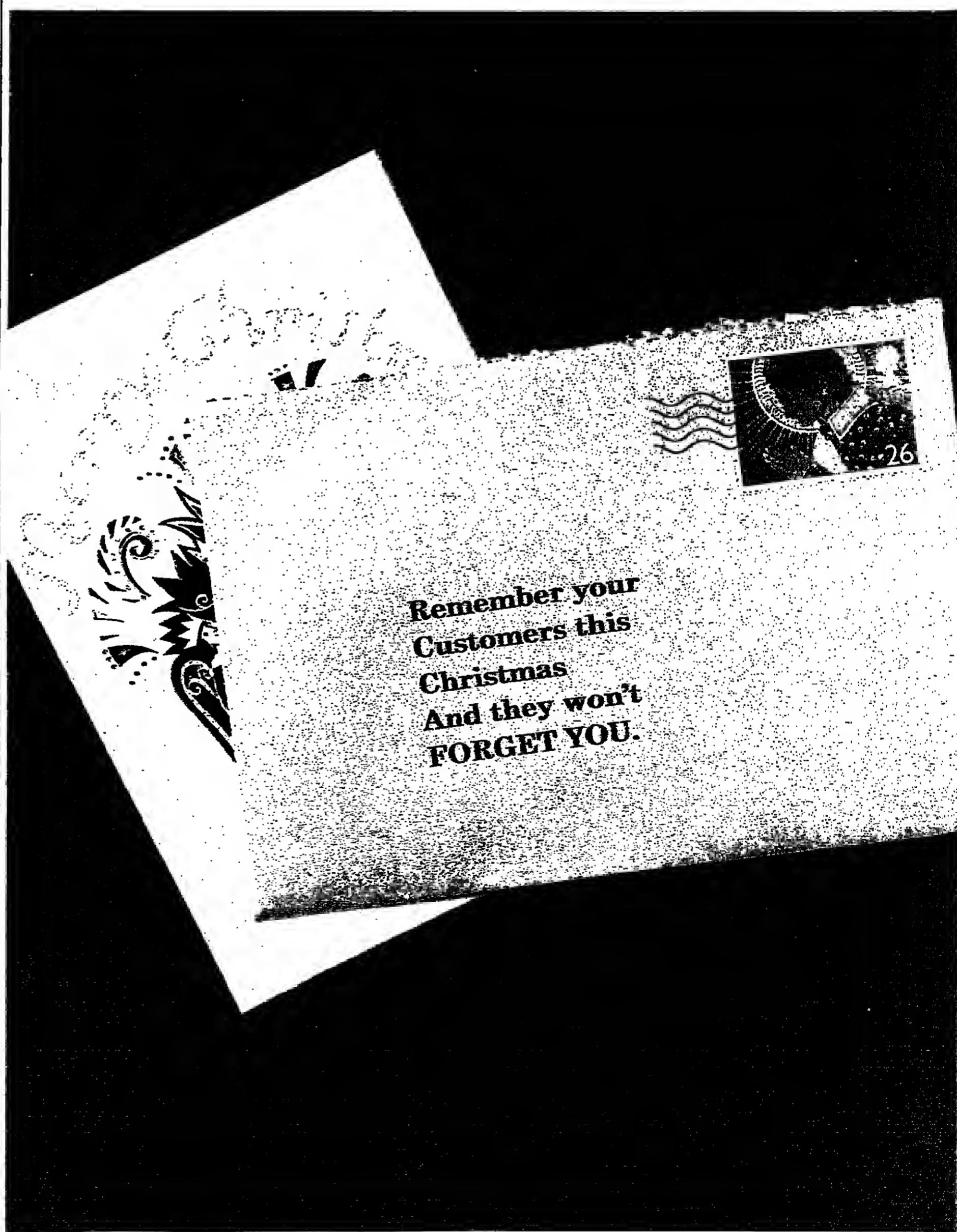
AIRBUS INDUSTRIE is set to land its first order, worth about \$1bn, for its latest narrow-bodied jet, the A318. US aircraft lessor ILFC has signed a memorandum of understanding for 30 of the new 100-120 seater aircraft.

#### Canada Life hit by provision

CANADA LIFE, the insurer planning to demutualise next year, announced a collapse in income from £76m to £1m in the year to September owing to provisions connected to UK business. It set aside £48m to cover guarantees on annuities and £27m for pension mis-selling compensation.

#### What about those pesky nibs?

BARCLAYCARD moved to end its high-interest reputation yesterday by slashing rates on debts transferred from other card providers. Interest on transfers will halve from 18.9 per cent to 9.9 per cent. Customers who then take further credit will pay at least 17.9 per cent. The cuts will apply to a sample group of 200,000 cardholders.



Card reproduced courtesy of Robot Design



News Analysis: The euro is likely to ignite merger mania among insurance giants

# Europe's insurers eye UK market

BY ANDREW GARFIELD  
Financial Editor

**CONSOLIDATION** IN the financial sector is back on the agenda, with both banks and insurance companies dusting down the files on their favourite bid targets in the wake of a 25 per cent fall in share prices since September.

The temporary pause in activity which followed the outbreak of global financial crisis came to an end three weeks ago with Norwich Union's £315m bid for London & Edinburgh. Now investors and deal-hungry corporate financiers are itching for more.

Since the Norwich Union deal, two of Ireland's biggest financial services groups, Irish Permanent and Irish Life, have revealed they are in merger talks. In the UK, as far as the really big deals are concerned, talk is still running ahead of action but the interest is clear there.

After Britain's largest insurer, Prudential, signalled an interest in Halifax a fortnight ago, the focus has shifted to the general insurers where the disappearance of the smaller players has left Guardian Royal Exchange, as the UK's smallest composite insurer, looking dangerously exposed.

Since the purchase of health-care outfit PPP in a £455m deal earlier this year, John Robins, GRE's chief executive, has made a valiant stab at putting together a strategy for remaining independent. But shareholders are far from convinced.

The 5 per cent jump in GRE's share price yesterday after *The Independent* reported that AXA/UAP, the world's largest insurer, was considering a bid says it all. Last week when GRE said it was putting

£300m into PPP and integrating its life and healthcare businesses, the shares hardly moved.

One City fund manager sitting on a big chunk of GRE stock said yesterday: "It isn't ideally sized for the markets they are addressing. We've always felt a European player was the most likely to bid."

Disappointing third-quarter results from Royal & SunAlliance and CGU, both products of recent UK mega-mergers, show how difficult it is for even the big guys in the industry to make headway in the face of a worsening global economic climate and fierce competition. For a small and largely domestically focused business such as GRE, the prospects are grimmer still. Meanwhile the UK life business, which is supposed to be less susceptible to the vagaries of the general economic climate, has also been unconvincing.

On the whole the UK insurance sector has largely been left to its own devices. The 1980s saw French insurers AXA and UAP snap up Equity & Law and Sun Life respectively, and Germany's Allianz buying Cornhill. But more recently continental European insurers have tended to give the UK a wide berth. This is partly because of the high prices in the sector, but also because of the wave of hostility to European integration which saw Britain turn its face against participation in the European single currency and persuaded the big European players such as Allianz and Generali that mainland Europe was a higher priority.

John Robins, GRE chief executive (left), has fought hard to remain independent, but shareholders are not convinced. Claude Bébén, AXA/UAP chairman, is pursuing growth for his company's UK offshoot UPP/FT

British insurers returned the compliment and concentrated on expansion either in traditional stomping grounds in Anglo-Saxon markets such as Canada, Australia and the US, or on purely domestic merger deals.

Laterly, though, the ground has been shifting. With the launch of the euro threatening to kick-start the creation of a

genuine pan-European market in insurance and savings products, the less insular of the top UK insurance executives have realised that even after mergers such as the Royal and Sun Alliance deal, in global terms British insurers still lag giants such as AXA and Allianz.

Meanwhile, the growing conviction that the Government will take Britain into the euro

is reawakening interest in the UK market place among the coterie of big insurers who have made being pan-European their top strategic goal.

Peter Constable at Robert Fleming, the investment bank, who has acted for a number of big continental players in the past, says: "The more positive Britain is on EMU, the more the bigger players are interested in the UK." Claude Bébén, chairman of AXA, has been open in his belief that Sun Life and Provincial, its 72 per cent UK quoted offshoot, needs to grow.

He is not alone. Gianfranco Gutfy, chief executive of Generali, the secretive Italian insurer which earlier this month announced it was taking a 5 per cent stake in Commerzbank, Germany's fourth-largest bank, said earlier this week that the firm had been looking actively at opportunities in the UK.

One thing that has changed since August is that deals are becoming harder to finance, particularly for companies trying to pay for acquisitions by issuing shares. Another is that shareholders are looking more critically at deals and asking for more evidence that after initial enthusiasm has faded there is enough meat to keep share prices moving up in the long term.

But for those with good credit ratings, or who can pull off mergers of equals, there are deals to be done. Stephen Dias, insurance analyst at Goldman Sachs, says: "There are a number of big insurers like Allianz, Generali and AXA that see themselves as pan-European and global, and are seeking to expand their presence in markets where they see themselves as lacking size."

"Second, there are the bank insurance deals such as Fortis's acquisition of Kredietbank and ING's purchase of BBL in Belgium. "Last, you are seeing more realism on the part of those purely domestic firms that do not have either of those strategies but are under pressure to react to those that do. Consolidation is very much alive."

**INSURANCE COMPANY PRICE PERFORMANCE**  
Source: The Insurance Year 1998-1999  
Company Performance %  
Absolute  
UK  
AXA 21.7%  
Guardian Royal Exchange 25.1%  
Royal Sun Alliance 22.3%  
Independent Insurance 12.1%  
Frost & General 6.0%  
Norwich Union 8.1%  
Sun Life & Provincial 12.8%  
Prudential Assurance 12.8%  
Fidelity Life 16.8%  
CGU 17.0%  
Allianz 14.7%  
Generali 11.7%  
Aegon 14.3%  
ING 13.6%  
Netherlands 14.6%  
Italy 14.5%  
Swiss Re 12.7%  
UW/Switzerland 12.7%  
Source: Deloitte & Touche

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## BOC shares rise despite profits plunge

BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

BOC, the industrial gases group, yesterday continued the shake-up of its businesses which will see 5,000 jobs disappear worldwide with news of a further 400 job cuts in the Asia/Pacific region.

Chief executive Danny Rosenkranz, who is moving the group's head office to a vacant building in Guilford, said that the group had felt the impact of the economic downturn, particularly in the North Pacific region, the UK and South Africa.

However, BOC shares were marked up by 18p to 86p, despite the announcement of a 44 per cent fall in pretax profits to £247.2m for the year to September 30 after a £14.4m profit from selling the Ohmeda healthcare business and exceptional restructuring costs of £23.3m.

Mr Rosenkranz reported that the group is beginning to see some benefits of the rationalisation programme and that the cost base "is showing signs of being much better".

By the time the present programme is complete BOC will have shed about 12 per cent of its workforce of 43,000. Analysis

said that the results obscured a steady underlying performance from the continuing business, which showed a 4 per cent increase in turnover and a 7 per cent rise in earnings per share to 52.06p.

The performance in the fourth quarter is less healthy, with sales down 2 per cent, profits unchanged at £100.3m although earnings per share were up 5 per cent, reflecting a 26 per cent drop in group borrowings and a reduction in debt interest from £95m to £24m.

Sterling continues to be strong against the currencies where BOC trades and the business climate remains challenging. A quarter of BOC's sales are in the Asia/Pacific regions, where profits fell 20 per cent last year, and more than half the sales of the vacuum technology division are to semiconductor manufacturers.

Analysts left current-year forecasts unchanged yesterday at pretax profits of £405m and earnings of 54p in the current year, rising to £450m and 60p next year.

## Pensions redress unfair, say MPs

BY ANDREW VERTI

MEMBERS of Parliament yesterday urged the Government to force shareholders to bear more of the £15m cost of pension mis-selling as they concluded their long-running inquiry into the scandal.

The Treasury Select Committee said shareholders in life insurers should bear "a substantial proportion" of the £15m compensation cost.

Many life insurers insist that compensation should be paid for out of long-term funds. Because of the structure of the funds, policyholders typically bear 90 per cent of the cost and shareholders only 10 per cent.

The chairman of the committee, Labour MP Giles Radice, said: "We think share-

holders must pay more than 10 percent. First, as shareholders of the company they must take some responsibility. Second, it seems to us that it is not fair to blame policyholders for actions by the company over which they have no control."

The MPs also want the Treasury to consider new laws to protect policyholders' rights in general.

They also said sales people's pay depended too heavily on commissions, and called on the Financial Services Authority, the City regulator, to develop guidance "so that excessive dependence on commission-based selling is reduced".

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John D. Morrissey

# Safeway puts Footsie on a lean diet

**SAFeway**, the supermarket chain where profits are under pressure, fell 6.5p to 276p, uncomfortably close to the 12-month low. Half-year profits are due today and they are expected to be disappointing: say, 17 per cent down at £190m. For the year the market has pencilled in £360m, which would represent a near-£20m increase on last year but below the £400m of earlier times.

The shares, around 426p two years ago, have suffered as competition has grown ever more fierce, putting margins under intense pressure. The group also encountered stock problems.

At one time it looked as though Asda would take advantage of Safeway's discomfort by mounting a bid. But Westminster killed off any such deal, indicating it would run into monopoly problems. Since then Asda's shares, down 1.5p at 155.5p, have lost so much ground that a merger must have lost much of its appeal.

As the market fretted about Safeway, still classified as a food retailer, investors were using the shares of food producers following the disappointing trading perfor-

## MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

mance by Northern Foods, off 12.5p to 155p. Terranova, the chilled foods spin-off from Hillsdown Holdings, lost 10.5p to 101.5p. Hazewood Foods 9.5p to 125.5p and United Biscuits 13p to 237p. Hillsdown lost 5.5p to 85p.

Geest, the old banana group now in chilled foods and fresh produce, lost 16.5p to 141.5p; the price has tumbled from 472.5p this month. There are indications that profit forecasts are being cut and investment meetings this week are not expected to bring much comfort.

The company could be in danger of falling out of the mid cap index when its composition is reviewed next month.

The rest of the market spent a quiet day waiting for the interest-rate decision. Footsie, at one time 51.9 points higher, ended 7.8 off at 5,502.7. Mid caps, suffering from the food constituents, fell 26.5 to 4,809.1. The small cap index slipped 6.3 to 2,060.9.

GRE, the Guardian Royal Exchange insurance group, climbed 16.5p to 238.5p or *The Independent's* story of a strike from French group AXA/UAP Trading was brisk.

Sun Life & Provincial, the AXA vehicle which could make the bid, fell 22p to 500p.

FirstGroup's much better than expected results helped trading shares, with Stagecoach riding 14.5p higher to 242.5p and Go-Ahead 30p to 655p. FirstGroup put 27p to 320p.

Carrie & Wireless firmed 8.5p to 669p as its 52.8 per cent-owned Australian offshoot scored a 23 per cent premium on its Sydney market debut. Energis, which like so many hi-tech groups has produced figures

offering nothing as crude as profits, rose 11p to 870p (after 902.5p). Dresdner Kleinwort Benson put a target of 1,015p on the shares.

Tomkins, following an investment presentation, was little

SOUTH BEACH Concepts, a loss-making group developing US-style restaurants, held at 1.25p after licensed dealer Everett Financial Management acquired a 9.6 per cent stake, subscribing for 18.8 million new shares.

A former Ofex company which moved to AIM, SBC's restaurants feature bagels, specialty coffees and fruit and vegetable juices. Its shares are 1.25p. They have been as high as 6p since switching to AIM.

changed at 273.5p and BTR, ahead of today's meeting with analysts, lost 8p to 100p.

Engineer IT's progress after Monday's trading update was short-lived; the shares fell 23.75p to 331p, losing most of their gains.

Takeovers continued on the undercard, with Media Business up 28p to 104.5p as a US group offered an agreed 107p a share. Last month long-running takeover talks with an unidentified group were called off.

Solutions lost 0.75p to 2.5p after abandoning a takeover deal.

The perils of US bids was illustrated by recruitment group Robert Walters, which fell 40p to 285p. The shares are to be delisted on Wednesday following the takeover by Staffmark. Until then Walters' shares track the Staffmark price, which fell 11 per cent overnight. The August deal was said to value Walters at 430p a share.

Stockbrokers were firm on signs that Beesons Gregory could be for sale. Charles Stanley added 26p to 318.5p and Brewin Dolphin 20p to 380p. Garban, the money and securities broking group spun off from United News & Media, had a volatile debut. The shares moved between 197.5p and 235p, closing at 217p, with Sean putting volume at 6 million. United Rose 24p to 638p.

Sherwood International, the computer group, jumped 45p to 1,185p ahead of an investment presentation. Sci-Id Diagnostic lost 50p to 517.5p on profit-taking.

SEAN VOLLMER: 750.3 million  
SEAG TRADES: 57,829  
GILT INDEX: 112.37 + 0.35

## Slowing sales adds to Northern Foods' woes

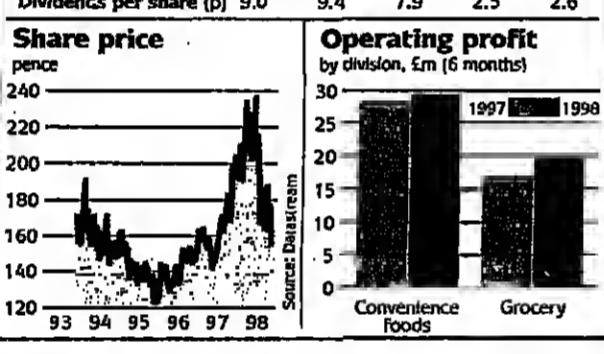
### INVESTMENT

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

#### NORTHERN FOODS: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £925m, share price 155 (-12.5p)

	1996	1996	1997	97/98	98/99
Revenue (£bn)	1.96	1.89	1.09	0.53	0.6
Pre-tax profits (£m)	119.8	128.3	130.0	42.0	40.2
Earnings per share (p)	14.4	16.1	14.3	5.2	5.2
Dividends per share (p)	9.0	9.4	7.9	2.5	2.6



which showed pre-tax profits plunging £42.3m to £7.8m – should be a low point. The blame for the figures falls squarely on the shoulders of Jeremy Marshall, who stepped down earlier this year. Newly installed as chief executive, Mr Much should now be able to provide a steady recovery.

Not that the way back will be a doddle. De La Rue's cost base is too high while its management seems more interested in chasing volumes rather than margin. But Mr Much has acted quickly to put this right by reducing bank-note printing capacity by a quarter. The move

exists and competition tough, the shares are unlikely to make much progress before Christmas. On full-year forecasts of £98m the shares trade on an undemanding forward multiple of 12. Hold.

**Much faces a baptism of fire**

IAN MUCH could hardly have picked a better time to join De La Rue. Barring a catastrophe, yesterday's dire first-half results from the bank-note printing to smart cards group –

existent and competition tough,

the shares are unlikely to make

much progress before Christmas.

On full-year forecasts of

£98m the shares trade on an

undemanding forward multiple

of 12. Hold.

involves 375 job losses which should add 29m a year to De La Rue's bottom line. Meanwhile, prices are firming, giving a further boost to margins.

Mr Much has also taken personal charge of the cash systems division. Although he insists it is too early to say what his plans are further restructuring looks inevitable, although a fire sale is unlikely. A final decision is scheduled for the first quarter of next year.

Having had their fingers burnt, the body investors are unlikely to trust De La Rue until Mr Much can show them concrete evidence of his progress. But with the shares – up 1p to 177p yesterday – trading on a multiple of just eight times forecast earnings for the year to March 2000, they are worth tucking away.

#### Market shares P&S optimism

**PORTSMOUTH AND SUNDERLAND**, the regional newspapers and convenience stores group, faces a familiar dilemma. How can a company which relies on advertising revenue prepare itself for a recession?

Announcing a 34 per cent increase in adjusted first-half pre-tax earnings yesterday Sir Stephen Waley-Cohen, the chairman, struck a positive note, stressing that "prospects for local publishing and retailing were excellent". The market, which pushed the shares up 40p to 505p yesterday, shared his optimism.

When it comes to resilience in a recession, Portsmouth and Sunderland is different to other newspaper publishers. Two-thirds of its £100m of revenues in the period came from its 200-strong chain of convenience stores. And it plans to increase the chain by 40 stores a year.

On full-year profit estimates of about £15.5m, Portsmouth and Sunderland shares trade on a forward earnings multiple of just over 10. It looks well-placed to reap the benefit of its move into retailing. A long-term buy.

DAVID KNIGHT, a 38-year-old City of London barrister who happens to be the Northern Ireland Cluedo Champion, put up a very creditable challenge in last weekend's UK round of the World Cluedo Championships.

Mr Knight played as The Reverend Green at the tournament, held appropriately enough in the Sherlock Holmes Hotel, Baker Street, London. He described the competition as "intense", and narrowly lost out to Josef Kollar, 53, the defending world champion, who always dresses up as Colonel Mustard.

In real life Mr Kollar is an accountant who lives in a mud-walled house on the borders of the New Forest in Hampshire.

Mr Knight, meanwhile, left Lovell White Durrant, a City law firm, three months ago to set up his own Internet company. He is aiming to put law relating to housing finance on the Internet so that local authorities and housing associations can get basic, up-to-date legal advice and information without having to pay a solicitor.

He has also recently been appointed to the legal board which advises the Association of British Insurers (ABI) on law relating to property.

**PEOPLE AND BUSINESS**  
BY JOHN WILLCOCK

QUESTION: WHY did the accountant cross the road?

Answer: Because he looked up the file and saw that's what they did last year.

AS JOHN SWIFT comes to the end of his five-year contract as the first-ever rail regulator, his boss John Prescott has been advertising for a replacement.

Coincidentally, the Government is also advertising for someone to head up the new Competition Commission, the planned replacement for the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC), which is due to be launched later this month.

Mr Swift may not quite be

flavour of the month with New Labour, but he seems to have amassed something of a fan club among City competition lawyers, who reckon that he will make an excellent chairman of the fledgling Commission.

Sadly, Mr Swift has ruled

himself out of the running. He says: "I would advise the Department of Trade and Industry to think very carefully before appointing a utilities regulator to the post."

Instead he has decided to return to work at the competition bar, as head of Monckton Chambers.

**EDDIE JORDAN** may be worth £24m following his deal to sell half of his Jordan Formula One motor racing team to Warburg Pincus. But his friends back in Dublin remember him as a young bank clerk with AIB, a carpet seller in an open-air market and a second-hand car salesman.

Not all at the same time, of course. The enterprising Mr Jordan tried many careers before getting his big break as a Formula 3000 driver. When he found it difficult to raise sponsorship he formed his own team. His party piece was to take one of his racing cars to

along to discos and pubs to raise money.

"**FUZZY LOGIC**" may sound like something out of a science fiction movie, but the principle underpins the main technique by which the taxman nabs tax dodgers.

Mark Watson-Gandy, a City barrister, warns: "No business is safe. New fuzzy logic techniques used by the Inland Revenue mean that they now target firms that fail to conform to business trends in their industry. Be innovative, stray from the norm or buck the trend, and you are liable to be targeted for an investigation."

Mr Watson-Gandy has just co-edited a chapter on "Avoidance, Evasion and Tax Investigations" for the *Thomson Tax Guide*, an electronic guide on tax law.

He found that the Inland Revenue is now compiling profiles of exactly what each size of business in each sector should look like, in terms of profits, tax paid and so on.

Depart from the average by winning a big order, say, or expanding abroad, and you could attract the taxman's knock.

**LEAFING THROUGH** European *Chemical News* this week, as one does, my eye was caught by an article on the way regulation in the natural gas sector is hitting the chemical industry. The headline ran: "Feeling the pressure from natural gas". Perhaps the solution is "Rennies" or "Alka Seltzer".



Piers Allardyce

## The Bar loses at Cluedo

**DAVID KNIGHT**, a 38-year-old City of London barrister who happens to be the Northern Ireland Cluedo Champion, put up a very creditable challenge in last weekend's UK round of the World Cluedo Championships.

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## SPORT

Golf: They are all aiming to be school-leavers but only 35 players will graduate after a gruelling six-day examination

# Rose chases the card to his future

BY ANDY FARRELL  
at San Roque

**THE USUAL** assumption is that golf pros lead a glamorous life. "A week on the Costa del Sol at this time of year, lovely bubbly," is the kind of comment they attract.

Every good theory has an exception that proves the rule and in the lifestyles of the rich and famous (golfing section) the PGA European Tour School is that exception. Otherwise known as the Qualifying, or simply "Q", School, the six-round gruelathon brings together a few who are rich and famous and many others who merely hope to be.

The week is golf's equivalent of football's First Division play-offs but is best imagined as a penalty shoot-out that goes on for six days. It may be all very well taking each hole at a time but there are 108 potential disasters awaiting the 181-man field. By next Monday just 35 will be holding their players' cards and will be eligible to play on the European tour next season.

The incentive is to be part of a circuit worth more than £40 million, although the hand dealt to the Q school qualifiers is to be granted a place at the tour's lesser stops. It is, however, a vital step on the ladder and one Justin Rose, like others who have relinquished their amateur status and made golf their work, hopes to take.

But it is a week when Rose might like to be known by any other name. Reputations count for nothing and the last thing the 18 year old needed was the suggestion of one television company that they follow him for a behind-the-scenes documentary. It took Rose all of three seconds to decline the offer. Looking back on his eight tournaments as a pro to date, when he failed to make a penny after finishing fourth at the Open, was also not on the agenda.

"I don't want to dwell on them," he said. "I've been asked about it so much. I feel I didn't take my amateur game with me into the professional ranks but why it changed I don't know. Maybe I was trying too hard."

Rose's father Ken was more forthcoming. "Justin has been trying to re-enact the Open and has learnt a harsh lesson," he said. "But he has had only one 90th of his professional life and that puts things in perspective. There are no regrets about turning pro. If you are going to turn pro, the sooner you do it the better. Everyone who sees him recognises that he is a very special talent. Hopefully by his early 30s he will be the No 1 and have won

*'I feel I didn't take my amateur game into the pro ranks. Maybe I was trying too hard'*

that made it easier."

The rest of the field is made up broadly of three categories: those who make it through the pre-qualifying to get to play at San Roque and Sotogrande but fail to make it to the top echelon; those who have no problem qualifying for the tour and every problem with staying on it; and those whose successful careers on the circuit have come to a sudden halt.

No less than 13 players in the field have won 23 European tour titles between them and three have been Ryder Cup players: Paul Way, Gordon Brand and Steve Richardson.

Way won the PGA Championship at the age of 22 but is here for the third successive year. Richardson, a former rookie of the year, also has three wins but was overtaken by Jamie Spence for the 40th place in the career money list at Montecastillo two weeks ago.

"Obviously it's like a normal tournament in that you have to play well to do well," Richardson said. Richard Bonsu, whose only other trip to the Qualifying School came 16 years ago, thought differently. "It is not the

same feeling as a regular tour event. You have to play percentage golf."

Winning the Qualifying School is no guarantee of future stardom but the roll of honour includes Sandy Lyle (1977), the Open and Masters champion Jose Maria Olazabal (85), who won the Masters in '94, Ryder Cup players Gordon Brand (81) and Jesper Parnevik (88) and Retief Goosen (92), South Africa's Alfred Dunhill Cup hero.

Darren Parker, a 30 year old from Essex, will not get the chance to tee up today after being involved in a head-on car crash on the so-called "Highway of Death", the main road along the Costa del Sol to Malaga. Parker was in a car driven by his fellow pro Robert

Palmer, who has been to the last two Qualifying Schools but missed the cut in each, said: "I am still shaken and don't feel much like getting into a car at the moment. The first I knew of the accident was the screaming of brakes and, looking up, seeing the car heading straight for us. I suppose it is a relief to be alive but I've lost a year out of my career."

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The pressure and the pleasure: Justin Rose (above) feels the strain yesterday at San Roque while (below) he enjoys the chip-in at the last hole of this year's Open at Birkdale that catapulted him to stardom and fourth place



#### PAST WINNERS OF THE QUALIFYING SCHOOL COMING BACK FOR MORE

**HEINZ PETER THUL**  
The 35-year-old from Kolin, who won the German Youth title in 1980, is back at the Qualifying School for no less than the 15th time a record. He has gained his card three times – and he won 1989 – but on each occasion he failed to retain his playing privileges. Has even twice qualified from the Challenge Tour, including in '97, but finished 144th on the money list this season with £27,542.

#### DANIEL SILVA

Not only won the Q School in 1990 but went on to gain Portugal's first – and so far only – European tour win. In the 1992 Jersey Open. The 32 year old was born in Johannesburg and was once sponsored by Nigel Mansell, who was president of the Pine Cliffs club in the Algarve. Dropped off the tour when injury problems left him 197th in '93. Missed the cut here last year.

#### NICLAS FASTH

First graduated from the Asian and Challenge Tours to the regular circuit in 1994 but lost his card in '96 only to go on and win the Qualifying School. The 26-year-old Swede had a good season in Europe in '97, when he finished 34th on the money list, to go to the USPGA Tour School and won his card. But splitting his time proved a disaster as he finished 169th. This is the 34-year-old American-born Dutchman who tried to get his card in the States a few years ago and not the French World Cup player Jean Van de Velde.

#### CHRIS VAN DER VELDE

Has successfully qualified four of the five times he has been to the Qualifying School, including last year's victory. But has never been able to retain his card, a run that continued this season when he finished 169th. This is the 34-year-old American-born Dutchman who tried to get his card in the States a few years ago and not the French World Cup player Jean Van de Velde.

## Sapsford saps Wilkinson's self-belief

**DANNY SAPSFORD**, ranked No 518 in the world, joked that he quits playing every week. Chris Wilkinson probably wishes it was true. The top seed crumbled against Sapsford in the first round of the National Championships here yesterday.

Wilkinson, No 1 in the absence of Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski, believed he had an opportunity to add the National title to his respectable Wimbledon record of four third-round appearances. Only Henman had denied him success at Telford in the past two years, in the final last year and the semi-finals in 1996.

Sapsford, who had retired once before, decided that 25 defeats was more than enough. Before the US Open he told Jeremy Bates, the Lawn Tennis Association's manager

of men's national training, that he would stop playing after the Bournemouth tournament in September. "I asked Jeremy to bear me in mind if there was any work for the LTA."

What changed Sapsford's mind was a lucrative run of success in the doubles event at the US Open in partnership with the South African Lee Balle. They emerged from the qualifying tournament and advanced to the third round, where they were defeated by the Indian Davis Cup pair, Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi.

Sapsford, who had stumbled on a nice little earner. "After losing really tough singles matches and picking up only \$300 (£150), I found I could share \$1,500 for

playing in the first round of doubles, which covers expenses, and share \$15,000 for winning the second round of some ATP Tour doubles events."

The winner of the men's doubles title was a third at the Nationals last year, partnering Norfolk's Tom Spinks. Sapsford is now ranked in the top 100 as an ATP Tour doubles player. His singles form was sharp enough to earn him £500 for beating Wilkinson yesterday.

Describing the defeat as "a bit of a kick in the teeth", the 28-year-old, ranked No 178, vented his anger by smashing his racket. He said playing Sapsford had become a mind game. "I like to play serve and volley, but I'm not a big hitter, and he

always seems to get the ball back," Wilkinson said.

The first set vanished after only 20 minutes, but the second threatened to go on forever as the players engaged in lengthy rallies, chiefly comprising half-court balls that begged to be put out of their misery.

Sapsford, having broken in the opening game, saved three break points at 2-1, was unable to convert a break point for 5-2, and then saw Wilkinson save three match points at 5-3, and level at 5-5. Wilkinson held a set point with Sapsford serving at 5-6 and created three more in the tie-break before Sapsford took his fourth match point to win the shoot-out 2-6.

The leading Juniors had varying fortunes. Mark Hilton,

## Spanish pair blame fatigue for failure

**ARANTXA SANCHEZ VICARIO** and Conchita Martinez, both Spaniards, both 26 and both seeded, were both knocked out of the season-ending Chase Championships in New York.

The pair cited fatigue as explanation for their sluggish performances on Monday night, the Fed Cup team-mates losing tough first-set tie-breaks with nothing left to give in the second set.

Martinez, who fell 7-6, 6-2 to Belgium's Dominique Van Roost, said it was just too late in the year to hold such an important tournament.

"It's very hard to keep the year going so long," said the seventh seed, who reached the Australian Open final way back

in January. "We end the year on 22 November and then we have to start in January. It's like going to go."

The usually fleet-footed Sanchez Vicario is known as the game's most tenacious battles. But after the first set, there was no evidence of the trademark intensity in her eyes.

"Everybody is coming to this tournament really tired and my body just feels it," said the fourth-seeded Sanchez Vicario, a 7-6, 6-1 loser to the Romanian Irina Spirlea.

"I still tried my best but the second set I didn't have much energy left," she said. "We play because we like it, because it's our profession, but we are human beings."





# Wood gives in for love of green shirt

KEITH WOOD may not be overjoyed at the prospect of spending the next 12 months at the beck and call of the Irish Rugby Football Union's promotions department, especially as they could theoretically ask him to open every new supermarket between Carrickfergus and Castlegregory for the princely sum of £5,000.

But the lure of the green shirt is stronger than any point of principle, it appears. Everyone's favourite hooker was expected to make his peace with the governing body by

## RUGBY UNION

BY CHRIS HEWETT

applying his thumb print to the union's controversial international contract last night before training with the squad in County Wicklow today.

Wood had originally refused to have anything to do with the deal, claiming it represented an infringement of his "intellectual property rights" - fine words indeed for a front-row forward. His stance was both high-profile and solitary - the rest of the

Irish squad duly put pen to paper - and as a result he was omitted from his country's 26-man party for the World Cup qualifiers with Romania and Georgia, losing the captaincy to Paddy Johns in the process.

However, a shoulder injury suffered by Alan Quinlan, the Munster flanker, has created a vacancy in the squad, hence Wood's scheduled appearance on the training field at Greystones RFC this morning. He may yet face the Romanians, thanks to Ross Neesdale's dodgy hamstring, but whatever the

role he plays at Lansdowne Road this weekend, he will almost certainly be on parade for the Grand Slam-chasing Springboks at the same venue in 11 days' time.

World Cup qualifying business resumes tonight both in Dublin, where the Romanians and Georgians contest one automatic place in next year's finals, and in Huddersfield, where Italy and the Netherlands do something similar, presumably in front of a non-existent audience.

Italy intend to field eight of

the side that out-muscled Argentina in Piacenza earlier this month, including Massimo Giovanelli, their experienced flanker and captain, and the two half-backs, Alessandro Tronconi and Diego Dominguez.

Georges Coste's side may not break the three-figure barrier, as those vindictive English bullies did last weekend, but they will still be far too handy for a Dutch team who must now be wondering whether rugby is such a great game after all. The likes of Paolo Vaccari, Marcello Cuttitta and Valter Cristofolotto

may be sitting this one out, but any side able to introduce so accomplished a full-back as Matthew Pini, the former Wallaby Test cap who now plays his rugby at Richmond and qualifies for the Azzuri through Italian grandparents, can expect a comfortable evening's stroll at the McAlpine Stadium.

Talking of Wallabies, the current batch of Australian tourists will be asking great things of a heavily remodelled back division when they go toe to toe with France, the European champions, in Paris on Saturday.

Chris Latham of Queensland earns a first cap at full-back in place of the injured Matt Burke while Nathan Grey, the New South Wales centre, fills the midfield gap left by the indisposed Tim Horan. Ben Tame's absence from the right wing gives Jason Little, a World Cup winner in 1991, another run in the No 14 shirt.

But from an English point of view - the red roses meet the Australians in something of a grudge match at Twickenham on Saturday week - the addition of Patricio Noriega to the Wal-

ley scrum half will be of greater interest, not to say concern, than the developments out wide.

Noriega was an influential member of an Argentinian front row that fairly murdered Bria Moore and company during a World Cup pool match in Durban in 1995. Now that he has hoovered up a few Super 12 ball skills and an Australian passport to go with his brute strength, he may prove as sound a Wallaby acquisition as his countryman, Enrique Rodriguez, a decade and a half ago.



David Ashdown

Jacob Raulum, the Fiji scrum-half, passes out unhindered yesterday against Cambridge University. His side compiled their third successive comprehensive victory of their short tour

## Fiji's speed and bulk overwhelm students

THE FIJIANs are here accimating themselves in readiness for next year's Rugby World Cup. It is doubtful they will encounter conditions when they play their group matches in France such as yesterday's at Grange Road. It was a chill, dark day that grew foggy by the minute. That they ran out such convincing winners over a patchy Cambridge University side did them credit.

Their coach, Brad Johnstone, the burly former All Black prop, explained: "The average temperatures over

BY DAVID LLEWELLYN

Cambridge University 13  
Fiji 49

there are 34 degrees Celsius - they pull on their coats when it drops to 28 degrees."

Shivering or not the Fijians were soon warming the day over the Cambridge line. They had the half-century mark in the opening game of their eight-match tour against Penzance and Newlyn. Last week they stuck 48 on Oxford. No doubt it will have pleased the Light

Blues to have conceded only one more point and to have scored more try than the Dark Blues.

The tour was to have finished with a match against a World XV in aid of Will Carrington's testimonial; that little money-spinner has been replaced by a game against Leicester.

While Johnstone admitted he would have liked an international thrown in somewhere the Fiji manager, Meli Kurisaru, was happy to have a less demanding tour. They arrived here without half a dozen

first choices who are all contracted to various clubs around the world. Waisale Serevi, for example, is currently in France.

"It is an opportunity to bring in six newcomers," Kurisaru explained. "We want them to get accustomed to night games, the conditions and so on. But in the future perhaps we would like to attempt a Grand Slam tour like the South Africans."

After failing to reach the finals of the last World Cup they decided to do something about it. They appointed Johnstone,

who toured with the 1978 and 1979 All Blacks, to take charge of the national team and development of the game.

The rewards are now being reaped four years on with qualification for next year's final stages. But it has not been easy for him. "It was a great war with the Sevens people to procure the players," he explained. "Until last year they had precedence when it came to selection and Seven players were barred from playing Test rugby at 15s."

With World Cup qualification

completed all that has changed and next year Johnstone will have first pick.

Ken Iwabuchi, the Japan international stand-off playing out of position at full-back, did himself no favours (despite scoring a try) and appeared to be something of a liability whenever the Fijians thundered at him. In the case of Jooli Veitayaki he could be for given. The tight-head prop frequently used his near-21st bulk to bash his way through.

At one point the students managed to hold him up over the

line - where they hit the JCB no one knows - but in the end his weight prevailed as he scored one of his side's six tries.

Centre Mark Denney, scrum-half Greg Peacock and No 8 Henry Whiford shone for the Light Blues, and the front five were no pushover, but they were no match for the Fijians.

The tourists' backs were bursting with power and pace - Waisale Tuiseke looked particularly tasty - and both wings proved their class with a brace of tries each and they have a solid kicker in Nicky Little at

stand-off. The meeting with Leicester on 3 December should be worth watching.

Cambridge University: Tries Bidwell, Buoy, Penalty Moran, Fiji: Tries Ikomamakogai, Sarala, E Tukera, F Lasagaburu, N Liile, J Rauti, O Rouse, G Smith (capt), J Veitayaki, E Kaitauau, Naveo, B Lekanau, S Serevi, S Tawake, Replacements: M Toga for Rouse, J Toga for Naveo, D Toga for Smith, S Nauyoga for S Tavake, J Yule (Scotland). Referee: J Yule (Scotland).

## Sullivan strides in from wings

ANTHONY SULLIVAN is confident he can handle the huge weight of expectation surrounding his rugby union representative debut tonight.

The St Helens and Great Britain rugby league winger lines up for Wales A against Argentina at Pontypridd with just four hours' union experience to fall back on.

"It is only a matter of time before he gets a greater feel for the 15-man game."

Sullivan will take his place alongside 10 internationals as Wales's second string look to continue the momentum generated by the senior team's outstanding performance against the world champions.

That heroic Wembley display has clearly made it tougher for those players on the Test team to break through but several individuals will have one eye on this season's Five Nations campaign, which starts for Wales away to Scotland in under three months' time.

Winger Wayne Proctor, scrum-half Paul John, hooker Garin Jenkins, lock Ian Gough and No 8 Nathan Thomas are among those with points to prove after being overlooked for the Springboks Test.

Geraint Lewis may yet find himself in the Test team. That depends on the outcome of Scott Quinnell's appeal hearing.

If the Pontypridd flanker is withdrawn from a team duty

Neath's Scott Eggar will take his place.

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International football: England coach Hoddle set to take ultimate gamble on the young defender he rates so highly

# Ferdinand sweeps to the fore

BY CLIVE WHITE

SOMEHOW GLENN HODDLE'S future as England coach seems to be irrevocably linked to the development of Rio Ferdinand. Ever since he succeeded Terry Venables it has been his profound wish that the national team play with the sweeper, just as he did at Swindon and Chelsea, and in the young West Ham defender he sees a player with just the right capability to perform that special role. Indeed, he probably sees a lot of himself in this elegant young footballer.

The time for Hoddle to take a chance with the inexperienced Ferdinand in just such a position is at hand. At the risk of another indifferent performance on the back of a disappointing start to England's European Championship campaign, I suspect that Hoddle will make this fundamental tactical change and gamble on Ferdinand as sweeper in the friendly against the Czech Republic at Wembley tonight.

Instead of just watching Tony Adams' heir apparent gain further valuable experience on the right flank of defence alongside Gareth Southgate and Sol Campbell, the 20-year-old Ferdinand, on his fifth appearance, will be deployed in the pivotal position in which Hoddle had always forecast he would eventually play. His excellent performance against Luxembourg last time out has persuaded the England coach that the time is right.

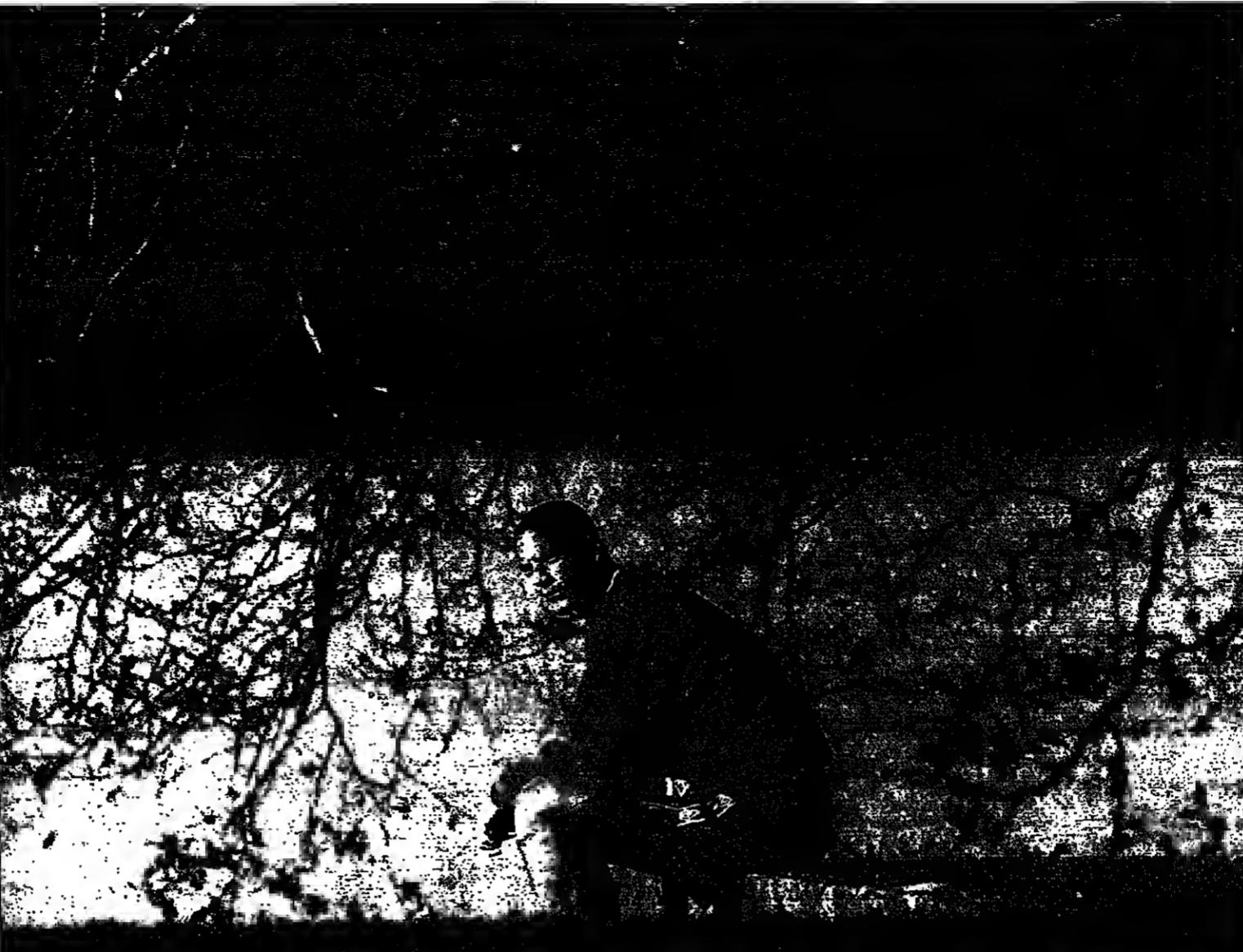
Like Hoddle, when he converted to sweeper late in his career, defending has been the weakness in Ferdinand's game – until this season. "He's still going to improve as a defender and he is improving, in the last 12 months he has come on leaps and bounds," Hoddle said.

"Not until he has played 15 games at this level will we know

*Not since Hansen have we seen an English League player stride out of defence with such composure*

himself as a defender. "It was the last game of my school season, against Charlton, I think, and we didn't have enough defenders, so they put me in there," he said. "The next year in a pre-season reserve game for West Ham I was in defence against St Albans and I have played there ever since. It was put on me and I didn't enjoy it at first, but it grew on me and now I love it."

Probably not since the days of Alan Hansen have we seen an English league player stride out of defence with such composure and assurance. There are a few defenders around capable of making these upfield excursions, but precious few know what to do with the ball when they get there. Performed properly it is one of the finest



Rio Ferdinand takes a break from England training at Bisham in preparation for tonight's game against the Czech Republic Peter Jay

sights in football, as anyone who ever saw Franz Beckenbauer's salty forth would agree.

"When you create an extra body in midfield the opposition look around as if to say: 'where's he come from?' and if other players are being marked there's not usually a spare person to mark

you, so it creates problems for other teams," Ferdinand said. "But you've got to choose the right time to go, someone has got to sit in for you."

If Ferdinand has a weakness other than his improving defensive one, it is that this fairly introverted individual is not a good talker on the field. But though quiet and unassuming, he is a determined young man and he is confident that he can improve that aspect of his game.

"Talking an organisation are things I need to improve," he said. "If you're playing in the centre, you've got to be a good

talker or lead by example. I'd like to be able to do both. Tony Adams is a fine example and Alvin Martin, when I first went to West Ham, was brilliant at it."

But he knows he can learn most from his mentor, Hoddle. "He understands the game, every part of it, from the strik-

ers to the goalkeepers," Ferdinand said, "and having played sweeper he can give me pointers on that. I'm not at that stage where I can pick and choose where I play, but if selected, I know I've got a chance to stake a claim to be in the first XI on a regular basis."

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## Irish opt for massed midfield

BY STEVE TONGUE  
in Belgrade

THE FIRST settlers in Belgrade were Celts – hence the name of the Tara Mountains – but never before have the Republic of Ireland played football here. A month ago, it looked as if they still might not and that the European Championship game postponed because of threatening military action by the West would have to be played in a neutral country.

That would have been a huge advantage to the Republic, but now that the political situation has stabilised, Yugoslavia can now begin their Group Eight programme on home ground. They have some catching up to do, with the Irish having stolen a six-point march on them with victories over Croatia and Malta to lead the table.

Denis Irwin, whose early penalty against Croatia gave Ireland the perfect start to the

competition in September, wins his 50th cap at right-back, with Coventry's Gary Breen partnering Kenny Cunningham of Wimbleton in the middle. The prospect of either Phil Babb or Steve Staunton bringing their Liverpool form to the centre of defence was not an encouraging one, so Staunton will appear in one of his more familiar international roles, at left-back.

McCarthy has made no secret of his admiration for Yugoslavia. "They've got good passers of the ball," he said. "I don't see too many weaknesses. We've been watching videos of their performances in the World Cup, when they should probably have gone further than they did. For 60 minutes against Germany they produced one of the best performances by any-

body at the World Cup. I just hope they play like they did in the last 30 minutes."

A subsequent 1-1 draw in Brazil, with a Brazilian referee, prompted Fifa's world governing body, to lift the Yugoslavs to eighth place in the world rankings; as Croatia are fourth, it is clear how difficult a group this will be to win.

Yugoslavia's coach, Milan Zivadinovic, said: "We know the Irish are going to play defensively and we'll have to break them down. If they get another point here, they'll be well on the way to qualifying."

Such a result would also inflict some self-doubt among the Yugoslavs before their emotionally charged fixture against Croatia in March.

A point from this assigna-



LIAM MCMENEMY is playing mind games ahead of Northern Ireland's Euro 2000 qualifier against Moldova at Windsor Park today. McMenemy says his side are the underdogs, even though Moldova are ranked 23 places lower at 116th in the world standings.

McMenemy said: "We are the underdogs if you look at where we draw our players from, who they are playing for and their lack of experience. The Moldovan players are all playing regular football and they are a high-quality unit. We're picking from lads who are third choice at Blackburn, reserve at Manchester City and the only goalkeeper we have playing regularly is in the Second Division. You should not underestimate the opposition in any game whatsoever."

"If anyone is giving the impression that this game will be any easier than our last one, against Finland, that could be fatal. It's a thin line between trying to be depressive and optimistic and what I'm trying to do is guard against complacency."

Despite McMenemy's attempt at ideology, Northern Ireland are still expected to beat Moldova, who have won one competitive away game in their history. Three points would take Northern Ireland joint top of Group Three with six points, alongside Finland and Turkey. It would put them back in the first international to take place in the country since 1996 when Armenia were the visitors.

"Units have been posted in and around the stadium since Sunday," Ardan Buziga, the minister of sports, said yesterday.

"It's a hit disappointing that we didn't win but we got a point and it's something to be

on right. He's a very stable person," he said. "I've known him since he was a youngster and I've seen the way he's grown up – he's coped with every situation that's been put in front of him, he always wants to learn and he always wants to listen."

"Sometimes you see young goalkeepers at 15 or 16 and you think they could go on and be very good. But somewhere along the line, at 18 or 19 years of age, it doesn't happen for them for a variety of reasons – they find other distractions or they don't work as hard as they should. But Richard is not like that, and that's why he's progressing all the time. He can go as far as he wants to go."

A first cap for England tonight would be a significant step along that road.

## Papin announces end to glittering career

JEAN-PIERRE PAPIN, one of France's greatest strikers, ended his playing career yesterday: "I am going to grant myself a long break devoted to my family, especially my daughter Emily, who is disabled," Papin said.

The 35-year-old, who scored 326 goals in 584 matches for eight clubs and the French national team, is retiring completely from playing but will coach the amateur side of Arcachon, in south-west France.

In 54 matches for France, including 11 as captain, Papin

scored 30 goals – a record bettered only by Michel Platini – and ended his playing career yesterday: "I am going to grant myself a long break devoted to my family, especially my daughter Emily, who is disabled," Papin said.

Papin shot to fame in 1986 after signing for Marseilles, where he scored 181 goals in 279 games, won four championship medals and was leading French goalscorer for five seasons. His goals helped Marseilles reach the 1991 European Cup final, in which they were beaten on penalties by Red

Star Belgrade in Bari. "If I had one regret, it would be that I never won the European Cup with Marseilles. I have replayed that final in Bari so many times," Papin told the French sports daily *LEquipe*.

After transferring to Milan in 1992, Papin won a European Cup medal in 1994, though he did not play in the final against Barcelona. Papin also played for Bayern Munich, helping the German club win the UEFA Cup in 1996, before returning to France. After a spell at Bordeaux, he moved to the French

Second Division club Guingamp in pre-season, but struggled to hold down a place.

Papin, who also had spells with Vichy, Valenciennes and Bruges, said that he is now a different person from the "temperamental, naive and inexperienced" youngster who signed for Marseilles.

"I thought that I knew a lot of things about which I knew nothing," he said. "I have changed a lot, that is clear. I have been divorced, had setbacks, injuries and put confidence in people that I later

regretted. But what changed me above all was Emily. She changed the centre of gravity of my life away from soccer."

In Tirana, special police units were guarding the stadium in which Albania are scheduled to play Greece tonight in the first international to take place in the country since 1996 when Armenia were the visitors.

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## Rangers apologise to Aberdeen

RANGERS ISSUED a full public apology to Aberdeen last night for labelling a section of the Pittodrie club's support "scum" in last Saturday's Ibrox match-day programme.

Stewart Milne, the Aberdeen chairman, protested to Bob Brannan, the Rangers chief executive, yesterday about the anonymous article which also branded the Dons' team as "under-achievers and money-grabbers".

Rangers made it clear in a statement that they have "issued a full and unreserved apology" to Milne, the club and its supporters – and this was accepted by Aberdeen.

The Rangers statement added that the programme is published on the club's behalf by a third party and the column, entitled "Blue Knows", was

approved by the magazine's editor.

However, the club admit they take full responsibility for "all material appearing in its official publications and is therefore in discussion with the publisher to ensure there will be no repeat of the situation."

Brannan said: "The views expressed were not those of Rangers Football Club. Relations between the two clubs are typically excellent and it is therefore regrettable this issue has arisen."

"I have apologised sincerely to Stewart Milne and explained how the situation arose. He has accepted this and I trust this will be the end of the matter."

Milne also expressed the hope that longer-running debates might also now be silenced.

"If anything positive is to be

achieved in this unfortunate incident, it has been agreed that both clubs will look at ways in which we could move together for the good of the Scottish Premier League and Scottish football as a whole."

"Meeting with the main Rangers supporters' groups is now an option for us to put everything into context and emphasise the extremes of opinion are in a minority," he said.

"My goal record for Nottingham Forest is good. I was always in the team and not

scoring then there would be a problem. All I can do is put in good performances, score goals and then it's up to Harry (the Forest manager, Dave Bassett) whether he picks me or not. I hadn't played with Pierre before but he's a quality player and he's good to play with."

Freedman has been in and out of the Forest team since joining from Wolves for £200,000 at the start of the season but now believes he has proved his worth and deserves a regular run in the team.

"That was only my fourth game in the Premiership since the start and I've got to be happy with my two goals so far," he said.

"My goal record for Nottingham Forest is good. I was always in the team and not

scoring then there would be a problem. All I can do is put in good performances, score goals and then it's up to Harry (the Forest manager, Dave Bassett) whether he picks me or not. I hadn't played with Pierre before but he's a quality player and he's good to play with."

Freedman showed a real predator's instinct with his strike against Derby, collecting a rebound in the penalty area and then firing the ball home after seeing his initial shot parried by the Derby goalkeeper, Russell Hoult.

"It was a good striker's goal," Freedman said. "You've got to be in there to score goals like that and I like scoring good striker's goals."

"It's a hit disappointing that we didn't win but we got a point and it's something to be

on right. He's a very stable person," he said. "I've known him since he was a youngster and I've seen the way he's grown up – he's coped with every situation that's been put in front of him, he always wants to learn and he always wants to listen."

"Sometimes you see young goalkeepers at 15 or 16 and you think they could go on and be very good. But somewhere along the line, at 18 or 19 years of age, it doesn't happen for them for a variety of reasons – they find other distractions or they don't work as hard as they should. But Richard is not like that, and that's why he's progressing all the time. He can go as far as he wants to go."

A first cap for England tonight would be a significant step along that road.

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## Wright takes off the kid gloves

Ipswich's young keeper is ready if he gets the international call. By Adam Sreter

IT SEEMS a long time since England had a promising young goalkeeper to shout about, and given David Seaman's return to top form for Arsenal it may be a few years before one is needed. But in Richard Wright of Ipswich Town, Glenn Hoddle's goalkeeping guru Ray Clemence believes he has identified a player with the potential to become the next in an illustrious lineage, from Banks to Seaman via Clemence himself and Shilton.

Wright, who celebrated his 21st birthday on Guy Fawkes night, was called up to the senior squad from the Under-21s for the first time this week and although a place on the bench is probably as much as he dare hope for to start with tonight, the chances are that he may play some part in the latter stages of the game.

"He's got great reflexes, his concentration levels are very good, which you need to be an international goalkeeper; he's a good communicator with his defence and he's gaining experience every week by playing First Division football," Clemence said of his latest prodigy. "Playing first-team football every week is the best learning curve you can have."



# SPORT

ROSE'S CHANCE TO BLOOM P26 • HEMERY OUT IN FRONT AGAIN P31

International football: Opposition place 'special importance' on Wembley date with Hoddle's patched-up side

## Campbell handed the lead role

IF A TEAM'S endeavours reflect the demeanour of its coach then the 40-odd thousand expected to brave the elements and turn up at Wembley tonight can expect a pretty subdued England performance against the Czech Republic.

Whether it was the nature of yesterday's back-page headlines that upset Glenn Hoddle, or the news that Paul Scholes had joined Alan Shearer and Michael Owen in pulling out with a hamstring strain was impossible to tell; but for once the decent humour that has just about carried the England coach through the turbulence of the past three months was conspicuous by its absence.

By the evening, however, after training in the bracing afternoon chill and in the absence of Paul Ince and Tony Adams as well as Shearer, Hoddle was feeling sufficiently extravagant to name Tottenham's Sol Campbell as his captain for the night. David Seaman and Gareth Southgate were the other obvious contenders but naming Campbell, who led his country against Belgium in a World Cup warm-up game in Casablanca, was undoubtedly the most positive gesture Hoddle could have made in the circumstances.

"Sol leads by example and the players respond to him," Hoddle said. "He did a good job when he led the team in Morocco but Wembley will be different. I'm sure it will be a proud occasion for him and some time in the future he could be earmarked for the job full-time."

Owen apart, Campbell was England's outstanding player at France '98 and he continues to lead by example for Spurs, never more so than with his outstanding performance against Liverpool in last week's Worthington Cup tie.

"It is a great honour and a wonderful feeling," Campbell said. "There is an added feeling because the game is at Wembley, but I must not let the occasion take over my performance."

Hoddle's critics once again found plenty to hone in on, most notably the memory of England's last match at the national stadium, a sterile goalless draw with Bulgaria in Euro 2000.

The stakes are not so high tonight, but whatever he learns from an experimental line-up the result and the nature of the per-

BY ADAM SZRETER

forance will, inconveniently for Hoddle, be of more significance than he has been prepared to admit. "It's important that some of the players who haven't played for a while get a chance to show us what they can do against good quality international opposition," he insisted. "For me as coach that's the most important reason for the game. We would like to learn those things in a winning way of course, to get the confidence going, but Poland and Sweden are the two games that we've got to make sure we get right."

The injuries to Shearer and Owen obliged him to scrap his original plans for this game. "I would like to have brought in certain players and I had a certain situation in my mind," he said, "but that had to go out of the window and it's the second or third option that I'm looking at. That's not to the detriment of the side I'm going to put out but there are certain players I might have played if, say, Michael and Alan had been fit."

In normal circumstances that would mean giving youth a chance, and as far as the industrious Lee Hendrie is concerned that might yet be the case. But with Leicester's Emile Heskey still struggling with an ankle injury, Hoddle's options in attack are not as fresh, although few players deserve another chance more than the thirtysomethings, Dion Dublin and Ian Wright, who are likely to be paired together.

In Scholes' absence Paul Merson could, like Hendrie and Dublin, benefit from Aston Villa's present run of collective good form and it will be a surprise if Rio Ferdinand is not given another chance to impress in the sweeper role. But while Hoddle might be tempted to tinker even more with his line-up, the desire not to be embarrassed by a Czech side with a 100 per cent record from three European Championship qualifying games, and the lingering hope of a happy Christmas, may temper his enthusiasm.

ENGLAND (probable): Seaman (Arsenal); G Neville (Man Utd); Ferdinand (West Ham); Wright (West Ham); Dublin (Aston Villa); Sissoko (Man Utd); Wright (Aston Villa); Le Seux (Chelsea); Merson (Aston Villa); Wright (West Ham); Dublin (Aston Villa).

Ferdinand sweeps in, more international football, p30



Glenn Hoddle puts in some last-minute practice at Bisham with (from left) the new England captain, Sol Campbell, Dion Dublin and Rio Ferdinand

Peter Jay

## Czechs ready for English experiment

JOZEF CHOVANEC, the Czech Republic's coach, was eager to appear diplomatic yesterday ahead of his side's friendly against England. When asked how he felt about the prospect of facing an experimental side devoid of Alan Shearer and Michael Owen, he replied through his interpreter: "We won't pay special attention to the England side or its experiments." Pausing for a second while his words were translated, then he tapped the interpreter on the arm to ensure a qualifying phrase was added. "With the greatest possible respect to the

BY NICK HARRIS

England team, of course," he said.

The Czech Republic have won seven games and drawn two from the nine played since Chovanec ended a career in club football that saw him play for PSV Eindhoven, amongst others, and coach at Sparta Prague and turn his hand to international management.

"For our national team, every game is important, and especially tomorrow's game with England," he said. "I suppose both the England team

and the Czech team belong to the better half of Europe's national side and I expect a strong fight between two different football schools."

"For us this match has a special importance because we have Scotland in the same Euro 2000 qualifying group as us and we regard that there are certain similarities in the English and Scottish football."

When asked to elaborate, he said both teams would give his side tough, physical games, and he said that is what he expects this evening.

The Czech Republic are cur-

rently top of their Euro 2000 qualifying group with three wins from three games. They travel to Scotland in March and then host the return fixture in June and Craig Brown will be among those watching at Wembley this evening. Glenn Hoddle, for his part, should expect nothing less than a stern test.

The Czechs showed by reaching the final of the Euro 96 they were capable of attractive football. They may have lost that match 2-1 and may have failed to qualify for France 98 but they have been higher in the Fifa world rankings than England

for years, and more importantly, more consistent since their new coach took over.

Although Chovanec will be without the speedy, powerful Lazio midfielder, Pavel Nedved, who was withdrawn from the squad on Monday with a knee injury, he will field others equally talented, Karel Poborsky, the midfielder who never settled at Old Trafford, and Liverpool's Patrik Berger, who scored twice from free-kicks in his last international, will start. Joining them in midfield will be Jiri Nemec - last year's Czech Player of the Year and the most tal-

ented member of his club side.

Germany's Schule 04 - and the promising Vladimir Smicer, the prodigious attacker whose goals helped Lens win the French league last season.

"I would be very glad if we could be successful," Chovanec said when asked about tonight's game. When pushed for a prediction, he steadfastly declined. Too diplomatic for that kind of thing?

CZECH REPUBLIC v England at Wembley tonight, probable team: Koukal (Viktor, Zikov); Nemec, Vokoun (both Prague), Prochazka, Flajnik, Sveratka (both Brno), Bejza (Aleks Mach), Nemec, Laca (both Schalke 04), Berger (Liverpool), Lekic (Spurs Prague), Smicer (Lens).

## Clubs approve new Champions' League

BY ALAN NIXON

only five months after it was laid.

"They've had only five days of sunshine since June," he said. "When you get this exceptional combination of no sun and a new pitch, it doesn't allow the roots to knit properly."

The Chelsea striker, Tore Andre Flo, said yesterday that he will sign a new contract despite having been the primary victim of manager Gianluca Vialli's rotation system. The Norwegian international made only his first Premiership start of the season against Wimbledon on Saturday, but Chelsea have opened negotiations aimed at extending his contract by five years.

Fulham have signed Barry Hayles for £2m from Bristol Rovers. The 26-year-old striker scored 26 goals last season as Rovers reached the Second Division play-offs.

Tim Flowers is unlikely to feature in Premiership action until the New Year but the Blackburn and England goalkeeper will not need an operation. Flowers picked up a severe arm injury in training and missed both Blackburn's Worthington Cup victory at Newcastle and the Premiership defeat at Manchester United last week.

His Derby counterpart, Russell Hoults, is set for a two-week lay-off after he was concussed in Monday night's 2-2 draw with Nottingham Forest.

The out-of-favour Aston Villa central defender, Riccardo Scimeca, has handed in a transfer request. The former England Under-21 captain has become frustrated at the lack of first-

team opportunities during the current campaign following the emergence of Gary Neville.

The Celtic striker Henrik Larsson has been named as Sweden's Player of the Year.

The Leeds manager David O'Leary admits he has still not received a single inquiry about his transfer-listed winger Lee Sharpe. Leeds' club record £4.5m signing was put up for sale last Thursday.

Manchester City's unsettled

midfielder, Michael Brown, is set for a £400,000 move to Barnsley.

The Spanish hardman,

Miguel Angel Nadal,

is touting

himself

as the

solution

to Newcastle United's defensive problems.

The 32-year-old defender,

known as the "Beast of

Barcelona",

believed to be could

fulfil

Newcastle's requirements.

"I know that Newcastle United

are looking for

my type of

player,

and I would love to go to

England

and play for them," he said yesterday. "My agents have been in touch with Newcastle, and I told them they could have reservations about my age but I am still only 32 and I know I have plenty to offer them."

Fifa has rescheduled the

Confederations' Cup from

January

to July

and August of next

year.

In another Fifa

announcement,

a spokesman said

that only female referees will be

used at the women's World Cup

finals in the United States next

year.

For their male counterparts,

more emphasis will be

placed on

psychological

well-being

as well as physical fitness

in the future.

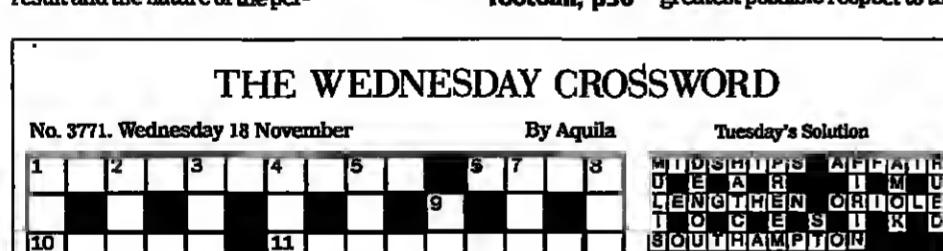
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ACROSS  
1 Faith in the novel (10)  
6 £500 from you, once? (4)  
10 Trade Union's carrying silver by inter-bank runner (5)  
11 Profession of self-confidence (9)  
12 A woman's nose starting to show bristle? (3)  
13 Turn out, always before time (5)  
14 What doctors make, stirring a gin into medicinal measures (9)  
15 Iced martinis in cocktail is not systematic (14)  
18 But he does go as high as a wing-commander (8-6)  
22 Roughly sixteen at church? Not much of a living! (9)

24 American university next to railway is taking too much interest (5)  
25 The old gentleman is retired, by right (3)  
26 One repast cooked with artificial tongue (9)  
27 Even United turn out in the place for trial (5)  
28 Largish orderly (4)  
29 Frequency with which hike is included in mixed games? (10)

5 So, is a break an alternative for musicians? (5)  
7 Employee prepared to make a telephone apparatus? (7)  
8 As apprehensive as a crowned head? (6)  
9 Can, say, with watch on body making the charts (8,6)  
16 St. Paul, here, mentions a change (9)  
17 Ashen appearance from dissipating energy on ship (8)  
19 Joked, having been rigged out without a hat? (7)  
20 Active in light run, laid off? (7)  
21 Commandment from Thebes (8)  
23 Now then? (5)

DOWN  
1 Way to call up what is heart-rending (8)  
2 Does this plant wag about in thick grass? (7)  
3 Austin's trained plant is disappointing (14)  
4 Cahinimator could be Manxman, not I, going to the queen (9)

5 HODDLE (11)  
6 DEAR (11)  
7 LENGTHEN (11)  
8 ORIOLE (11)  
9 TO CSE (11)  
10 SOUTHAMPTON (11)  
11 HE (11)  
12 EG (11)  
13 NIMBI (11)  
14 NEARPOINT (11)  
15 EEN (11)  
16 LISH (11)  
17 SUNBONNET (11)  
18 NISI (11)  
19 SH (11)  
20 O (11)  
21 TRENCH (11)  
22 Y (11)  
23 P (11)



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# WEDNESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



Brigitte Lacombe

## Tina's big idea

The media world was rocked this year when Tina Brown stepped down as editor of *The New Yorker*. But why edit a mere magazine when you could make movies and millions too? In a rare interview, she outlines her plans for multimedia domination

**T**here isn't much time, we'll have to work fast. You see, this short newspaper piece could become a 10,000-word magazine article which could in turn make a book; a TV spin-off; a blockbuster movie. Are you ready? It could be big. Here it is.

Attractive English girl comes down from Oxford writing articles faster than people can read them; racy, witty, rude ("Janet Street-Porter dresses like a traffic light and talks like a Tannoy" gives you the idea). Goes through café society like a lawnmower, wins Young Journalist of the Year, is given decrepit society magazine to run, and recklessly turns it into the *Tatler*. Makes a daring transition to New York to be given decrepit literary magazine, *Vanity Fair*; reviving celebrity journalism, she turns it into the hottest mag in America.

Then the East-Coast brammins reel when she is given the rusting flagship of American journalism, *The New Yorker*. In five years, she has repaired, repainted, remodelled and revitalised it, increasing its circulation by 270,000. Then, as one of the most respected editors in America, her resignation from *The New Yorker* made the front of the *New York Times* - above the fold, she does the unthinkable, the indescribable - she quits to go and work for Disney.

At least, she goes to work for Miramax, which is owned by Disney. That is, she goes into partnership with the Weinstein brothers (who produced *Pulp Fiction* and so forth), and is given an equity position - an equity position! - in her own multimedia start-up company called Talk Media (which is a magazine from which articles can extend into books, TV specials, movies) with an investment of (I'm guessing) \$30 million.

Would that work? Could that narrative make a big article, a book, or a film? Can we construe

the Tina Brown story as a guide to the zeitgeist of the last three decades? How this tough, talented, and determined person bent three big brandnames to her will without even disturbing her hairstyle?

No, it is interesting. There's a star; a theme and a story. And its rhythm enjoys a natural crescendo, beginning with a 10,000-circulation *Tatler* and finishing with an 800,000-circulation *The New Yorker*. The climax is original, too: Equity in a new media company - it's rare for creative people to get equity, especially for journalists. If the project works, Tina will be a multi-millionairess. She will be a producer, a power-broker, and a player.

But first, let's start with the sour grapes.

Editors of successful, high-circulation magazines don't usually quit (and previous editors of *The*

BY SIMON CARR

*New Yorker* never willingly quit). So there is quite a widely-held view in the British media that assumes Tina Brown was pushed from *The New Yorker*. Why else would she jump ship from America's No 1 weekly to go and work for the Weinstein brothers - "the gangsters", as Melvyn Bragg quakingly described them; as *Pulp Fiction* people. Harvey Weinstein is reputed to have locked a film producer in his hotel room for eight hours until he signed an important contract.

So, over breakfast in Manhattan, I ask Tina about it. But she actually doesn't understand the question, or any variations of it. Pushed? Eased out? Paid off? She looks at me as though I must know something she's forgotten. Why would people be saying "pushed"? What does it mean?

No. At the time, she had on the table a new five-year contract from Condé Nast's feudal overlord, the billionaire Si Newhouse, at a significantly increased salary. (Taking soundings round the

New York media world, you conclude that Tina was heading towards \$2 million a year). Added to that, she had the staff she wanted and a rising circulation.

Of course, it was true that the title wasn't making money. In America, though, editors are rigorously excluded from the business end of the company. Tina increased the circulation by a third in five years - an enormous achievement - but there was a failure to sell advertising, and that was a matter exclusively for the magazine's publisher. To sell *New Yorker* advertising requires a world-class publisher.

Ron Galotti is such a world-class publisher - and this is an opportune moment to mention that Ron Galotti was the publisher of *Vanity Fair* while Tina was editor. Between them, they brought the publication into profit in their last

stepped onto a nicely fitted-out vessel she had carefully constructed to start this new venture; this new type of magazine.

"Talk," she says, "is a cultural search engine." That is, a magazine which publishes narratives, columns, profiles, features which may be developed further into other genres: books, films and TV shows. At the last count, there have been 18 movie projects that have originated from *Vanity Fair* and *New Yorker* articles.

"At the moment, someone writes a magazine article and uses that as a proposal for a publisher to get a book commission, and the movie rights are sold without any benefit to the original magazine publishers. The *Talk Media*-concept has all those necessary resources round the same table - the director of publishing [Jonathan Burnham], the director of television production [Gabe Doppelt]. And, of course, there's Harvey and Bob for the movies."

Why the name *Talk Media*? "It's everything people talk about. It's subtitled 'The American Conversation'. The time has come for a big American mag. When you look back at *McCall's*, in its heyday they were publishing Sylvia Plath.

There was a time when you could get high quality writing to a wide audience. I think that the time is right for that again."

*Talk Media* will be a big, monthly consumer magazine, with a planned launch of 100,000 subscriptions, and which will sit on the newsstands alongside *Vanity Fair*, initially selling 500,000 copies. It's ambitious, and it represents a whole new dimension for Tina. To have equity in a magazine selling half a million copies a month is a new order of operation. "I've always been interested in producing," she says. "Maybe it's because editors have a producer gene, this desire to make things happen. But I decided I shouldn't give up my expertise in print. Harvey [Weinstein] offered me everything - print, TV,

Continued on page 8

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FINANCE

## Iraq's travails

Sir: Once again the United States has manufactured a "crisis" out of Iraq's desperate plea to have eight years of genocidal trade sanctions lifted, and once again the coverage of this issue in the popular press has conformed perfectly to the classic definition of propaganda. How many layers of lies must reporters and editors wade through before it dawns on them that they might be getting a distorted picture - and thus may be misleading their readers with information that's highly biased or wholly fabricated?

Did Saddam do anything that could reasonably be interpreted as aggression? Were there threats of any kind coming from Iraq? Is it reasonable to think that Iraq might invade Kuwait again, or might launch an attack on another of its neighbours? Is there any evidence at all that Iraq is still trying to develop the "weapons of mass destruction" we keep hearing about, or that there may be a stash of them hidden away somewhere?

It seems to me that all of the threats and aggression have come from Washington. Iraq has done nothing at any time during the past eight years except try to get the sanctions lifted. We need to remember that these sanctions were originally meant to last only until Iraq pulled out of Kuwait. They remain in place today only because the US - through bribery and arm-twisting - got the UN to extend them with a new set of conditions.

The US has since added another condition: the overthrow of Saddam Hussein. No matter how much more suffering the Iraqi people must endure, no matter how many more thousands of Iraqi children must die, the US will not allow the lifting of sanctions until Iraq has a new and fully "compliant" president.

This is not what I call liberation. This is what I call fascism.

Dr THOMAS ANDERSON  
Summerland, British Columbia, Canada

Sir: How wonderful that, at least today, our weapons of mass destruction will not be creating death and devastation in Iraq.

May we hope that our government will decide to work genuinely within and for the United Nations, and that instead of so slavishly following the US lead we will take more account of the views of other member states, and make full use of Mr Kofi Annan's valuable services?

Dr EVA TREGILLUS  
Reeth, North Yorkshire

Sir: Those like Ellen Collins (letter, 16 November) who accuse the Government of hypocrisy in its dealings with Saddam Hussein and point to a contradiction with the sentiments of Remembrance Day are seriously misreading one of the obvious parallels of modern history.

Like Hitler, Saddam Hussein is not just a politician, or even a criminal politician, he is a political criminal whose pursuit of power is marked by appalling brutality and bloodshed. Having achieved national dominance by such means, both men went on to challenge the international community in a similar way. The lack of opposition to, even sympathy for, Hitler's re-annexation of the Rhineland both surprised and emboldened him to go further, opposing international agreement by force, just as Saddam Hussein has done with Iran, the Kurds and the annexation of Kuwait.

The pretext for Hitler's larger ambition of destroying communism and "Jewish capitalism" by appealing to pseudo-racial theory is echoed in Saddam Hussein's confrontation of Western capitalism and Zionism by a sham manipulation of religious identity. Both men had the will and means to satisfy their criminal megalomania disguised as political idealism.

Unfortunately, the only way to curb such people is through the absolute exercise of greater power.



Inside Time No 3: Cambridgeshire circuit magistrates are given a conducted tour of 'A' wing, in the third of our series of photographs from HMP Whitemoor to mark Prisoners Week

John Voss

Hitler could have been stopped long before events reached apocalyptic proportions. The same must not happen with Saddam Hussein.

D KIRKHAM  
Monchester

Sir: I was an unimportant soldier in Malaya, but had to fire the customary volleys over a fellow soldier's grave. I protest most vehemently at Ellen Collins's denigrating his, and other service men's, sacrifice in order to oppose action against Iraq.

Remembrance Day is for all people who have died in war since 1914. Although the causes of the First World War are complex, Britain's hands were pretty clean: we went in against an aggressor. Our main moral failure in the Thirties was not fighting Hitler sooner. We were against possibly the most evil dictatorship ever, and would have suffered terribly had we lost and the rest of Europe would have fared even worse than it did. The only reason for saying Nazism was "possibly" the worst is that Stalin's and China's communism are close contenders for the title. We, in Malaya, preserved the country from that.

British servicemen did not die to satisfy the vanity of a few powerful men. They were preserving all our freedom, and the very lives of many. Ms Collins should ask her history teacher to teach her some history.

There are arguments against bombing Iraq. Give them, but do not insult the dead.

D WATETON  
Wigan

#### The modern army

Sir: As a serving NCO with the Parachute Regiment I am writing to express the increasing concern of the most experienced members of the Parachute Regiment and the army in general over the current trend for outside bodies to try and bring the armed forces into line

with civilian corporations. The current obsession with racial and sexual equality and the possible relaxation of restrictions on homosexuality at the expense of all other issues is causing dismay and morale problems which could decrease the effectiveness of frontline troops. The civilisation of the armed forces is likely to result in the most professional army in the world becoming the most politically correct but laughable army in the world.

Many people, including senior officers who care more about their continuing ability of the forces, seem unable to accept that we are not like any civilian corporation or indeed any other public service such as the police or fire service. We are accountable but also unique. No other section of the British nation is required to kill people as part of its job description or to accept its continuing existence as subordinate to the good of the state.

If the British people wish us to come into line with civilian organisations, they will have to

accept that we will then expect the same privileges, such as trade unions and overtime, replicating the Dutch forces which, although undoubtedly politically correct, are also militarily inept. But if the British people wish to retain an army which is both professional and effective, they will allow us to train realistically, emphasising the rigours and brutality of warfare without distracting us with political correctness.

Cpl MARCUS FLAVINIUS  
1st Battalion Parachute Regiment  
Aldershot, Hampshire

#### Life from space?

Sir: Recent comments on the crossing of the Leonid meteor stream have all overlooked an interesting and potentially important consequence. It is now widely accepted that comets carry complex organic molecules, including amino acids, that might at the very least have been connected with the beginning of life on this planet. There also serious discussions in progress in scientific circles of the even more

radical possibility of cometary panspermia of the type we pioneered in the late 1970s.

The importance of the present crossing of the Leonids is that the source, comet Tempel-Tuttle (which has a period of 33 years), came closest to the sun on the last occasion only nine months ago, and so the Earth will be in receipt of freshly evaporated cometary particles over the next few days. Spectacular meteor showers are caused by the entry of particles of sizes typically larger than a grain of sand which burn as they plough through the Earth's high atmosphere at a speed of some 70 kilometres per second.

Besides these larger particles, the meteor stream will also contain, perhaps in comparable mass, a population of bacterial-sized particles. We have shown that particles of the size of micrococci or smaller, travelling at 70 kilometres per second, would be flash-heated to temperatures up to about 500 Kelvin for brief intervals of the order of seconds, after which they will be slowed down to reach the stratosphere. (See for instance

our book *Diseases from Space*, JM Dent 1979.)

In several laboratory experiments it has been demonstrated that bacteria retain viability under such conditions of flash heating in a near vacuum. Laboratory experiments have also shown that bacteria that become deactivated through exposure to ultraviolet light (as might happen after nine months in orbit) are easily reactivated, through the operation of enzymes, when the source of radiation is removed. Thus the possibility of viable microorganisms from comet Tempel-Tuttle reaching the Earth cannot be ruled out.

The average daily input of cometary dust to the Earth is estimated at about 50 tonnes. A 10,000-fold increase in this quantity over a couple of days seems likely, leading to a total mass of the order of a million tonnes. If as little as one part in a thousand of this is in the form of viable microorganisms, the total number of microbes drifting down to the Earth will be staggering  $10^{25}$ !

Professor CHANDRA  
WICKRAMASINGHE  
Professor Sir FRED HOYLE  
Cardiff University

#### Vote for Jenkins

Sir: I have waited two generations for fairer representation at general elections with a Tory candidate usually succeeding on a minority vote. The Jenkins AV plus at last gives hope, so I am dismayed at the short-sightedness (or is it inexperience?) of some New Labour's MPs. Their thinking appears seriously to underestimate the power of the Tory press. They do so at their peril! Aged 83, I've seen it all and am hoping for one last chance to change the colour in this constituency, which has been blue for the whole of my lifetime. I am very conscious, though, that Rupert only has to lift his finger. H G BUSBY  
Oxford

#### Animal rights

Sir: The announcement that the Government is to end the vivisection of animals to test cosmetics and ingredients is excellent news. However, forgive my scepticism: it may not be watertight as a ban is initial report imply.

Many ingredients used in cosmetics are also used in other products such as pharmaceutical and household goods. The Government supports the testing of these products on animals, and their ingredients, and so whether we can be sure that the money we pay for toiletries will not fund animal tests still seems a cloudy issue.

Secondly, the law forbids any experimental animal use if there is any other non-animal method, or it is not clearly "essential" for human or animal medicine. It doesn't take much of a study of the subject to see that this is regularly disregarded, and the most ludicrous of experiments are done. Can we expect the new law to be similarly forgotten?

Regardless of the cruelty issue, cosmetics testing on animals was stopped because it was irrelevant. The rabbit with concentrated shampoo in its differently structured eye, with no tears, for several days bore no relation to a human mishap in the shower.

Now the Government must extend this inevitable truth to the wider issue of laboratory animal use. It is true that animals suffer from different illnesses and react differently to drugs. Many human treatments fail lab animal tests, and many dangerous substances pass with flying colours when tested on animals. Such a haphazard method is worse than useless.

If the Government wishes to honour all election pledges, it must look into the very convincing claim that animals and humans cannot be compared medicinally and the entire flawed system should be abandoned in favour of more reliable science.

CRIS LES WRIGHT  
Furness, Hampshire

#### No to homework

Sir: I was interested to read that I don't count. I refer to your editorial ("Some welcome revision from Mr Blunkett", 11 November) saying that everybody agrees that children should do homework. I do not. I hated it as a child and am proud that I did as little as possible. I had a miserable time at school; why should I have given myself miserable evenings as well?

There should be a complete ban on homework in primary schools. It should be voluntary in secondary ones. No pupil should have to do actual lessons for more than five hours a day, five days a week - let teachers use their professional skills to cram everything pupils need to know into school hours by dropping religious education, gym and some non-academic subjects if need be. And let this apply to private schools as well.

When I read of the "school homework-bed" lifestyle which the likes of Tony Blair, David Blunkett and Jack Straw want to impose on Britain's children, I'm reminded of the song "Where Did My Childhood Go?"

Let children spend their time outside school doing what interests them, be it reading, watching TV, listening to music, part-time jobs, playing sport, pursuing knowledge or pursuing the opposite sex. As for the idea that you have to succeed at school to succeed in life, that is, quite simply, a lie. Many of the people I most admire "failed" at school.

MARK TAHIA  
London N16

#### Cock-a-hoop

Sir: Andrew Marr (Monitor, 16 November) describes Saddam Hussein as "a practised cock-snooker". True, he has cocked many a successful snooker - he is a snooker-cooker without peer. But a cock-snooker? How many cocks has he successfully snooked?

EDWARD HUTTON  
Monmouth

## Though loth to crow it, I soon may be a bay-crowned poet

I RECEIVED a letter from Buckingham Palace the other day, written in conditions of extreme secrecy, so secret that I must ask all my readers to keep the following information to themselves, and to my people they happen to talk to. The letter was headed: "Appointment to the Poet Laureate", and read as follows:

"Dear Sir or Madam. We are pleased to announce that you have been selected as an applicant for the vacant post of Poet Laureate, and if you send us a cheque for £100 you can be considered seriously for the next stage of selection."

"Well, I have to say that this was not quite how I envisaged the Poet Laureate being chosen. If I had thought about it at all, I imagined that it was done via a series of informal chats behind the scenes

"This chap Hughes - does he drink do you know? Nothing worse than a drunkon poet. Imagine having Dylan Thomas as Poet Laureate! Still, at least the Queen Mother would have someone to talk to... " and not as a job you applied for. But it was a chance that might never come again, so I sent off my cheque ipsoyable, for some reason, to the Next Big Royal Fire Fund and was duly sumunoned to the Palace for the preliminary auditions.

If I had envisaged a series of individual interviews, perhaps conducted by the Queen herself, I was sadly mistaken. There was a crowd of about a hundred people there, all milling round saying hello to each other shyly if they didn't know each other and saying hello loudly if they did.

I recognised Roger McGough and John Hegley and Ian McMillan the Barnsley poet, and Clive James, and Ian Hislop standing rather apart in one corner with four or five tough-looking gentlemen...

"Who are the blokes with Ian Hislop?" I asked Roger McGough. "His bodyguards?" His scriptwriting team for *Have I Got News For You?* And what connection does he have with poetry?"

I believe that's the syndicate he leads that writes E J Thribb's poems in *Private Eye*," said McGough. "Oh, hello, Tim..."

This was in greeting to the im-

posing figure of Sir Tim Rice, who was graciously moving among the crowd selling copies of his latest book, *All Time Great Cricketing Chart-Toppers*.

"I wouldn't have thought you

needed either the money or the

title," I said. "Or the kudos, come to that."

"I don't, dear boy," said the

great lyric writer affably. "In fact, I am not even on the shortlist. I just happened to be passing by and thought it seemed a nice party, so I came on in..."

"Alas, poor Mr Hughes died too soon," he said. "Before he could do some celebratory verses, I mean. And while I am the subject of the late Ted Hughes, I must stress that the next Poet Laureate's private life should be blameless. The Queen is well aware that, in connection with Mr Hughes, Sylvia Plath has always received more publicity than she has. She would prefer it if the next Laureate did not have tragic deaths hanging over him."

There was a sudden buzz of conversation as we all tried to remember how many suicides we had each been responsible for. The official called for silence again.

"Now for the test poems..."

"One moment!"

The speaker was a powerful-looking man whom I dimly recalled having seen on some late BBC2 programme.

"I think I speak for everyone when I say that poets should not be subjected to talent tests like see-aries or chorus dancers. We are content to be judged by our printed works. I for one am not staying for any demeaning audition!"

There was a growl of agreement and to the official's surprise the assembled poets rose and followed their leader out of the room, presumably down to the nearest pub. Only the official and I were left facing each other.

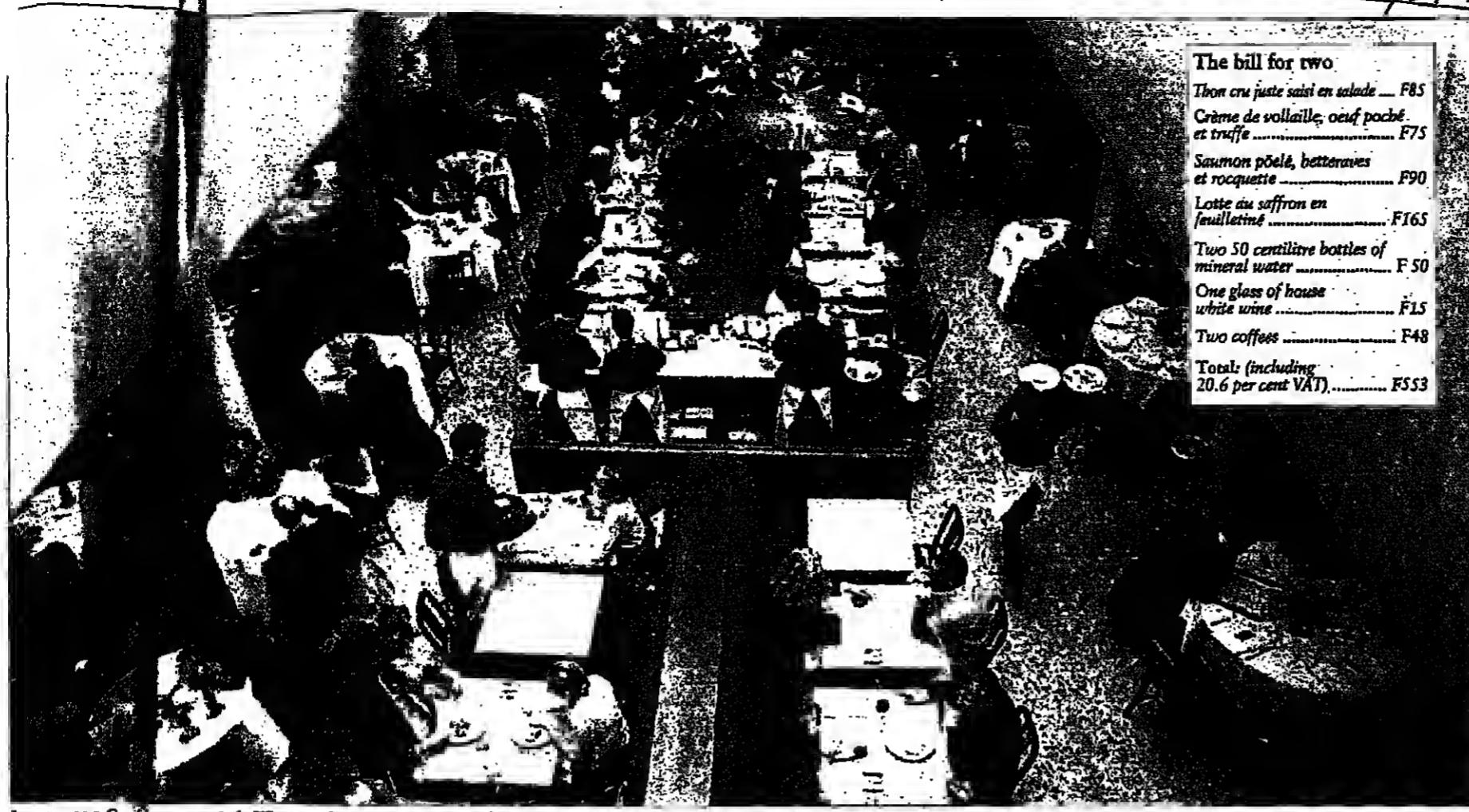
"Your name?" he asked.

"I won't say what followed next. Suffice it to say that things are looking very hopeful for me."



MILES  
KINGTON  
*If you send us a cheque  
for £100 you can be  
considered for the next  
stage of selection'*

*John Voss*



Le nouveau Conran est arrivé. 'We were led to expect something more audacious,' complained the restaurant critic of 'Le Figaro'

## Trust defeats hunt lobby on stag ban

BY MARK ROWE

MOVES BY a rebel group to overturn the National Trust's ban on stag hunting on its lands were overwhelmingly defeated last night.

Almost 40,000 National Trust members rejected calls by a breakaway group to raise the ban. The group, Friends of the National Trust (Font) a broadly pro-hunting lobby, had accused the Trust of failing to stand up for the countryside and ignoring the wishes of major land donors when it banned hunting.

The vote in Cardiff came after one of the stormiest Annual General Meetings in the Trust's 103-year history, at which it was accused of "betrayal" and "urban political correctness".

A resolution claiming that the ban on stag hunting violated the wishes of Sir Richard Acland, who transferred his West Country estate to the Trust on the condition that stag hunting would continue on his Holnicote Estate, was rejected by 36,795 votes to 23,885.

A second resolution criticising the National Trust for its "failure to stand up for the countryside and its way of life" was rejected, as was a third resolution, which attacked the Trust for being over-bureaucratic and called for a review of its general policy.

The results were welcomed by Charles Nunnally, chairman of the Trust, who said the number of people voting reflected the general indifference felt by the rank and file membership towards Font.

"If our members had felt genuinely that we had pursued the wrong policy this would have provided the perfect opportunity for them to say so," Mr Nunnally said.

However, he admitted the resolutions had caused the ruling general council to look "carefully once again at our policy" and he said that the council was acutely aware of the financial hardships faced by many of its 700 tenant farmers.

However, Baroness Ann Mallalieu QC, a leading member of Font, felt that the Trust could not ignore the 23,000

members who had voted to support Font's actions.

Font also had sought election for seven of its members to the Trust's policy-making ruling council. In the event, just one, Hugh van Cutsem, a shooting companion of Prince Charles, was elected.

He said that his success showed that Font's view was worth listening to on a number of issues. "This sends a message that we're not just a single-issue party," he said.

The ban on stag hunting was implemented last year, after an academic study found hunting caused deer great stress.

The Trust and anti-hunt pressure groups claimed Font was a single-issue group and criticised the Font members who stood for election for failing to declare their involvement in hunting.

Font member Richard Clegg QC said the ban on stag hunting violated the wishes of Sir Richard Acland, when he donated his Holnicote estate, as he had said the gift was conditional on the sport being continued on the land.

Mr Clegg told the meeting Sir Richard had informed the National Trust that to overrule him would be a betrayal of his wishes, and therefore the Trust was guilty of "broken promises".

Amid jeering and calls of "rubbish" he claimed that since stag hunting was banned in the West Country, deer numbers had dropped by 40 per cent and National Trust stalkers had shot far more stags than hunts had ever killed. "Stag hunting is the life blood of the moor," he said.

However, Jacob Simon, speaking on behalf of the Trust's council, said Sir Richard's wish was not legally binding.

"Given the compelling scientific evidence, the continuation of deer hunting is not compatible with the Trust's responsibilities," he said. "The Trust's obligations must come before the personal feelings of the minority who hunt."

## 'Where's the haggis?' sniffs French diner as Conran opens in Paris

FROM JOHN LICHFIELD in Paris

"ALCAZAR?" It looks more like Alcazar," said the halting Frenchman at the next table. "No I don't mean it. I'm just trying to adopt an English sense of humour to go with the food. How am I doing?"

The Alcazar, Sir Terence Conran's attempt to out-brasserie the French on their home territory, opened its doors to the public in the heart of the Left Bank of Paris yesterday. Despite a minimalist response by the French press (much less entertained by the idea than the British press), Sir Terence filled all 218 tables for lunch by 1.15pm.

The consensus of opinion among the handful of lunch-goers I spoke to was that the food was "correct" but unexciting; the ambience pleasant but oddly, er, French.

One could see their point.

The most surprising thing about Sir Terence Conran's great Alcazar is that, bringing his acclaimed London brasserie formula to Paris – is how unsurprising and how unadventurous it is. Having set out to prove something, the Alcazar does not seem to have anything much to prove.

It is not so squashed as French bistros; the waiters are younger and more numerous but not as rude or humorous; the menu is shorter and the wine list has (something unheard of in Paris) a few New World wines.

The design is brighter and airier than the older Parisian brasseries, such as La Coupole, but not so different from the newer ones. There is an open kitchen down one side and black chairs and maroon, upholstered benches and brown

pebbly tiles. It has a vaguely institutional Thirties, Great Gatsby feel, as if one were eating in the first-class dining room of a pre-war ocean liner.

The food (cheaper than in London Conran eateries) looked fresh and wonderful, as if lovingly prepared from photographs rather than recipes. Lunch for two without much wine cost F553 (about £60). I had chicken soup with a poached egg and undetectable truffles followed by monkfish in saffron and pastry. It tasted fine but unexciting. Safe. Even dull. Like French food prepared for an American palate.

Why is there not even one traditional British-type dish? This absence irritated at least one French luncheon. "Where

can one get decent haggis in Paris, can you tell me please?" he asked plaintively.

I confess that, as a devotee of old-fashioned cooking, from cassoulet to bacon, egg and chips (though I draw the line at haggis), I went along determined to be unimpressed. I succeeded easily enough. My wife, who is much shrewder and always right about such things, thought that Sir Terence had got it just about right: not so un-French as to put off the very conservative French, but sufficiently different to become a trendy place for weekday lunches and weekend brunches.

One sole, elderly male diner, whom I accosted in the genial French luncheon. "Where

with his food but not "épate" (astonished). "I came expecting to be either disgusted or delighted. I was neither. I suppose it will succeed well enough."

The food critic of *Le Figaro*, François Simon, said: "It's cooking so careful that it's almost insignificant... which is quite an art. It's a timorous response to the tastes of the time; we were led to expect something more audacious. But it's well thought out. It's cooking dressed up like a pop song, very professional, and catchy."

Despite having gone to such lengths to fit in, Sir Terence has managed to upset the restaurant *cosa nostra* of Paris. In an interview in the magazine *Elle*, he said that service in many Parisian restaurants was "deplorable" and the food often "mediocre". The Alcazar, thus said he had been happy enough

Such comments were the height of bad manners, retorted Jean-Paul Boucher of the Groupe Flo (which owns traditional brasseries as well as newer ones, of the Conran variety). "When you are invited to someone else's house, you bring a bunch of flowers for madame and you say the food is good, even when it isn't. This [Conran's] is the behaviour of a nerd."

One surprise was that yesterday's opening-day clientele was more elderly than the traditional Conran clientele at his London brasseries such as Quaglino's. There were many people in their fifties; a handful of mums being treated by sons. Overall, the lunchers were oldish, trendish, Leftish – in other words typical Parisian Left-bankers of the well-heeled 1990s kind, not the bohemian 1950s kind.

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JULY 1998

## PANDORA

PADDY ASHDOWN may have won the first round in his effort to convince the Liberal Democrats to accept closer policy links with the Labour government, but only after he lost a vote of censure by the party's federal executive on Monday. The executive body censured Paddy for "lack of consultation" on a matter of "party strategy which is constitutionally the remit of the federal executive". Lib Dem spin-doctoring skills must be improving, because the censure vote received no publicity yesterday, while the vote to endorse the joint constitutional committee received wide news coverage. The censure is echoed by an internal poll carried out on the Lib Dem's e-mail facility that showed a clear majority of party members unhappy with the lack of consultation - and a 60-40 rejection of last week's joint Blair-Ashton announcement. As one Lib Dem MP said: "We weren't so much bounced as treated like mushrooms, left in the dark and covered in manure."

"UNLIKE MANY Eurosceptics in this country, I am both a francophile and a germanophile," proprietor Conrad Black wrote in *The Daily Telegraph* in July. Pandora can confirm Black's ardour for our industrious German cousins, having learned that he now prints the *Telegraph's* Saturday magazine in Germany. Huge lorries loads of bound copies of this excellent glossy supplement are sent weekly from Dresden to England. Meanwhile, the leader pages of Black's newspaper continue to deride the "Left-leaning" German government of Chancellor Schröder along with Germany's economy, which the *Telegraph* believes is under "severe stress". How decent of Mr. Black, a Canadian, to send a bit of lucrative business across the Rhine, although Pandora wonders what his Eurosceptical readers will make of this gesture.

CHANNEL 4 - once lambasted by ethics exemplar Paul Johnson for its "culture of filth" - may be about to break one of the last remaining sexual taboos it hasn't already explored after the 9pm watershed. Yes, bestiality may be on the viewing menu next year. Channel 4 confirmed to Pandora that they are currently considering a proposal to make a programme on bestiality submitted by an independent production company to



the science department. It's just "one of several being looked at for next year", according to the Channel 4 spokeswoman, who added, "We don't know how it is going to be treated." Of course, any treatment of this bizarre subject is bound to be distressing and controversial. And likely to capture a huge audience.

IN AN article described as "a scurrilous piece" and "without a shred of public interest" by media critic Roy Greenslade, the *Express on Sunday* published, on 1 November, an interview with a so-called "close friend" of Peter Mandelson. The piece enraged Mandelson, provoked widespread criticism outside the newspaper and angered editor Rosie Boycott, who launched her own investigation to find out who was responsible. The inquiry's latest discovery: the photograph of the "friend" published on page 7 was doctored to remove the man's hand from the foreground. It had been raised to ward off the unwelcome attentions of the *Express's* pin-up girl - hardly the style of scurrilous tabloid journalism the "new" *Express* wants to project.

IT'S a feud made in American celebrity heaven: the Kennedys vs the Streisands. Back in 1978, Jackie Onassis Kennedy went into a real estate investment deal with Sheldon Streisand, brother of egocentric singer Barbra. The lion's share of the profits from the investment of \$780,000 went into trust for John F Kennedy Jr (pictured) and his sister Caroline. Recently, however, the Kennedy kids have filed suit in Manhattan Supreme Court against Sheldon for having allegedly "engaged in a pattern of self-dealing and deceitful concealment in an effort to steal the economic value of the partnership". The case goes to trial on 23 November.

In the meantime, matinee-idol-handsome JFK Jr is reported to be keen on launching his television career via a broadcast version of his eccentric, not-very-profitable political magazine *George*. Network producers are salivating at the prospect, while one observer told the *NY Daily News*: "This could be the perfect way for him to start easing into politics." So it goes on the other side of the Atlantic, where actually standing for election is the least promising way of launching a political career.

## Don't drop your tights, Lord Irvine

NOW IS he absolutely sure about this? The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine, fresh from establishing his credentials as an upholder of *Beritige Britain* in a small matter of some hand-blocked wallpaper, is it appears, somewhat less historically minded in the matter of hosey. After a little gentle pressure from the incumbent, the relevant committee of the House of Lords, ratified by the House itself, recommended that the Lord Chancellor should no longer have to wear tights, breeches and buckled shoes when sitting on the Woolsack. When speaking in his role as a minister in the House, he will be excused the full-bottomed wig and gown.

It is certainly a very absurd sort of outfit, making the Lord Chancellor resemble one of Charles II's mistresses in a gold lame dressing gown. And, it must be said, Lord Irvine of Lairg looks even more absurd in it than most Lord Chancellors; it perfectly accentuates his slightly spaniel aspect. But absurdity has its uses, though, perhaps through tact, none of the speakers in the debate in the House of Lords yesterday touched on its most

obvious benefit to the Lord Chancellor: The fact is that, dressed up like a glittering beadle, he can blame his patent ludicrousness on something else, and if small children how at him, throw stones or simply start laughing, he can reassure himself that it's just what the office obliges him to wear. In a suit, the Lord Chancellor would be naked. The debaters in the House of

Lords limited themselves to more conventional arguments. Lord Ferrers, for the opposition, said that it was a matter of tradition and standards, a part of our country since time immemorial, the druids themselves blah blah blah. The Government side went on about new exciting modernity; one peer said, amazingly, that not to change would be to "lose the people's confidence in the House of Lords". A bit late for that, one might have thought.

Lord Irvine's desire to get rid of a certain amount of flummery follows in the line of some distinguished precedents. When Betty Boothroyd took over as Speaker of the Commons, she announced bluntly that she wasn't going to wear the full-bottomed wig, and nobody suggested that a debate need be held or committee set up to discuss the matter. I mean, who would have dared? Chris Patten, going as the last Governor to Hong Kong, declined the offer of the traditional ostrich-plumed hat.

But before Lord Irvine starts thinking that he can follow in these distinguished precedents and start sitting on the Woolsack in his usual

single-breasted grey worsted, he ought really to take a realistic look at himself and at the general dignity of his profession. Madam Speaker Boothroyd was not someone who was ever going to need any kind of assistance from ceremonial dress or who derived any part of her grand authority from a big wig. When she was appointed, the respect, not to say awe, in which she was held by most members of the Commons was such that, frankly, she could have kept order in a pair of hotpants and a bowler hat.

Similarly, Chris Patten, arriving in Hong Kong, must have realised that this was not a moment to start going on about authority, tradition and the ancient customs of the imperial Governors, and that, if he had no dignity in himself, no number of slaughtered ostriches could possibly help him to establish it.

I rather fear though, that Chris Patten and Betty Boothroyd are not examples that Lord Irvine can dream of emulating. It is not that he, or the legal profession - for he must be thinking, at least, of letting judges and barristers follow his lead - need worry about their

apparent absurdity. It is more that the profession needs all the external absurdity it can get.

Everyone knows that most of the opinions of the House of Lords aren't worth the paper they are written on. We accept their views, as we would accept unquestioning, the views of lunatics, because they issue from a bunch of old men in extraordinary fancy dress, presided over by a man in tights and buckles. And, once the wigs go, and the gill and the buckles, once judges preside over their courts dressed much as everyone else in the room, perhaps everyone else in the room will listen to the extraordinary manners and opinions held by the legal profession in a different way. Not as the sort of thing that any man, once he puts on a pair of tights, might start to say, but just as the opinion held by another human being, and one which may be argued with.

The problem is that large parts of the legal profession are absurd and undignified. If I were in it, I would be concerned to stop the public discovering that its absurdity does not reside in the clothes that it has to wear.



PHILIP HENSHER  
Dressed like a glittering  
beadle, he can blame  
his true ludicrousness  
on something else

## Monica's put on weight. Now that really is unacceptable...



ANNE MC ELVOY  
She behaved like a sad,  
stressed, deserted  
human being. She broke  
the rules and got fat

AMERICA HAS always wanted its own Diana, Princess of Wales. Now it is going to get one.

The President's most troublesome squeeze has just signed a book deal with Andrew Morton, the ghost-writer who channelled into the late Princess's unhappiness into the public domain.

Apparently, Mr Morton and Monica Lewinsky met, looked into each other's eyes and "saw something in each other". Dollar signs, probably. Mr Morton will be Ms Lewinsky's most effective make-over artist.

By the time he is finished with her, she will have hidden depths. We will get to know the Monica we never knew. She will become an icon for jilted women everywhere. Camille Paglia will write a polemical defence of her. She will give a tear-drenched TV interview. Shortly afterwards, there will be a Monica relaunch in a sober suit and shorter hair as a woman who wants to be Taken Seriously From Now On.

One tabloid called her "a party pepperpot". Another headlined her restaurant outburst at gawping waiters and customers "Monica's Big Fit" (geddit?) and detailed her meal's calorie count. You do not have to be Woody Allen's shrink to catch the transference here. Monica has slimmed. She was a willing sexual adventuress and now she has tuned into an over-sized slattern. Thin America, which is to say respectable middle class America, finds her "gross" in both her sexual willingness and her large appetite for comfort food. To be an over-weight female is deemed normal only for the poor ethnic minorities or the struggling white residents of trailer parks.

New York has a new sport: Monica hunting. It works like this. You seek out that curtain of black hair and well-upholstered form in order to pass instant, negative judgement. The *Daily News* has printed a helpful map of her haunts. Manhattan is the largest village in the world, so it is actually very hard not to meet America's most discussed woman. She was one day behind me last week at the hairdressers, one ahead at the Metropolitan Club and a few

restaurants away for lunch. "Why," mused a puzzled American friend, "does she go out to eat so much when she's so fat?" Staying home in purdah would, of course, be required behaviour at this point.

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It was Bill Clinton's good fortune that his weakness for sexual as well as alimentary gratification should attract a wide coalition of forgivers. Liberals stood by a Democrat, how-

ever tarnished, rather than give their Republican enemies a scalp. Constitutional Conservatives fretted that pressing for impeachment would undermine the dignity of the Presidency. I now find myself in a minority outside the wider shores of Republican fundamentalism in Little Nowhereville, which believes that the President's behaviour was consistently wrong, that he misled America and sought to cover up his misdemeanours. The kind of President who gets oral sex while discussing policy on Bosnia or the phone shows that he cares very little for Bosnia.

He doesn't seem to believe in anything much else either, besides the importance of remaining in office. For a Democrat, the traditional defenders of the poor, he has allowed some pretty unpleasant things to be said about Paula Jones when she accused him of harassment. Remember the smear of his aides about Ms Jones's law suit: "That's what you get when you drag a hundred dollar bill through a trailer park."

Ms Jones has just found \$650,000 in settlement from Mr Clinton. She deserves it for sticking with her case for so long while the White House unearthed every trick in the book to undermine her Clinton's tireless battle for personal survival has ended any chance of achieving the reforms he promised. He messed up the change to health care, the one that really mattered. For all the Democrats' triumphalism about holding up in the recent Congressional elections, it is Republicans who are setting the reform agenda in welfare and education and determining the future of social policy in America.

But he has luck like dogs have. The media hyped up rumours of the unspeakable acts in the Oval office, but the TV networks and newspapers shied away from de-

tailing the sexual contact between Ms Lewinsky and Mr Clinton. The gap between expectation and actual reporting of the Starr report was so wide that he could emerge as a regular, rueful guy who fumbled around a bit, and carry on as before. Monica, on the other hand, is still in the purgatory of public opinion. She is alone in a crowd of agents, trainers, publishers, busybodies. She is disliked by middle American women who are none too keen on women offering married men instant satisfaction at the drop of a thong and despised by middle American men as an easy lay. All her hunger for celebrity cannot shield her from the universal mockery.

For the tabloids, she is too fat. For up-market columnists like the *New York Times*' Maureen Dowd, she is an inelegant parody of seductresses such as the late Pamela Harriman, who had the sexual morals of a tormit but is lauded in a new book for being more rich, more sophisticated and more cunning than the naive Ms Lewinsky.

It is a commonly held British be-

lief that America is a classless society. It is not. America has replaced class with status as the central ordering principle but it reinforces its chosen hierarchy with ruthlessness. "The problem with this scandal is not illicit sex," writes Ms Dowd. "It is that we need a better class of illicit sex ... Pamela would have been appalled by Monica. One talked in the deep rolling cadences of Winston Churchill, the other like a Valley mall rat."

Ms Lewinsky actually has quite a nice voice, but as far as the New York establishment is concerned, she is an inexperienced ingenue and therefore must sound horrible.

Meanwhile Ms Harriman, a scheming, pampered and manipulative woman, is glorified by Ms Dowd as "a disciplined siren ... She never admitted to being dumped, she simply picked herself up and moved on to the next target." Monica cried and whined, cared too much, talked too much and ate to much. She behaved like a sad, stressed, deserted human being. She broke the rules and got fat. That will never do.

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## Zero-tolerance for racism

MY TASK today is to share with you the experience of your American colleagues. Despite our common heritage there are enormous differences between our two societies and the nature of our respective problems. What worked for us may not be appropriate for you in every case, but there are enough similarities in our two experiences that you might find what I have to say somewhat interesting.

We began with a no-tolerance attitude with respect to racism in the armed forces. Racist language was banned, expressions of racist beliefs in any manner or displays were eliminated, and we were vicious and we are vicious to this day. Any overt expression of racism had to be absolutely crushed; those days were over, everybody gets treated the same, with respect.

We instituted Black History Month and Soul Food Dinner Night, we put black products in our post exchanges and our other clubs. All of these were ways to educate and show that differences were natural and understandable, and not sources of conflict, breakdown

the stereotypes. Remember, integration does not mean assimilation, we are not asking blacks to become whites, we are just saying understand one another, we are all members of the family with our differences, and we can be very, very proud of those differences.

The greatest challenge that we had was the development of black leaders in the officer and non-commissioned officer corps. When I became a second lieutenant in 1958, there were no black generals in the armed forces of the United States. Now we have some 40 generals and admirals at any one time and nothing seems unusual any more with respect to minorities. That is the way it should be.

Luckily we had a large group of historically black colleges given to us by the first period of reconstruction after the Civil War where a black population that had been nothing but slaves was educated. We created the historically black colleges all over America and they became our principal source of minority officers. To this day these black colleges and universities provide 50 per cent of the officers

threatening. Our promotion boards were perhaps the most challenging thing we had to look at. We could see clear patterns of existing discrimination, it was institutional racism.

Do you wait 50 years for it to wash out of the system? No. We would look at whole officer records, especially with minority officers, and keep in mind that in their early years of service they may have been exposed to patterns of discrimination. Is that reverse racism? I think it was an appropriate thing to do to try to catch up with the discrimination system that had existed for 200 years previously.

But the snake is never dead. You have got to make sure that you keep these policies programmed in place long after you think the problem is solved or it will re-occur.

Your challenge is a little bit different. You are a much smaller force and your numbers are much smaller so it is harder for you to create a large pool of qualified minorities from which you can promote and from which you can select. We are very proud of what we have done. We desegregated

ed our armed forces quickly and in the subsequent decade I think we have done a very good job of integrating our armed forces in such a way that what we have done in the military is now regarded with enormous pride by all of the American people and we are very pleased with that.

All of these policies had one goal and that was combat readiness, all of them for the purpose of making our armed forces better able to serve the nation more fully and in that regard it has been a success.

It will take the assistance of commentators and opinion leaders and makers and political leaders who will keep their feet to the fire, but who must also help take the message of inclusion and opportunity into the minority communities of Britain.

This is not just a military matter, this is a matter for the entire society to get involved in, and especially those of you who are in touch with young people, those of you who help shape opinion in this country have to see your responsibility and act in that responsibility.

## PODIUM

GENERAL  
COLIN POWELL

From a speech

by the former head of

the US Joint Chiefs

of Staff to a Ministry

of Defence conference

coming into the armed forces.

For many of our minority officers, coming into a white, middle-class environment was shocking so we mentored them. They didn't come in with the same kind of "old buddy" system that other officers had, those who went to certain elite schools. We had to create a tradition. We offered a form of bond that gave them an affinity and would not be seen as

an outsider. We desegregated

Col

# Unwanted and unloved



BILL SKEE

Farmers find it hard to adjust to being derided as subsidy junkies and environmental destroyers

THE FARM sector is in a deep crisis, which is both financial and psychological. Farm incomes have plummeted over the last two years and comparisons are often made with the farming crises of the 1870s or the inter-war years. But is that comparison really valid?

While we should not underestimate the impact on individual farm households, or indeed on the wider rural economy, the present crisis is not as deep or serious as those earlier agricultural depressions. There are a number of reasons for this.

First, the causes of the present crisis can be seen as the unfortunate coincidence of a number of relatively short-term adverse factors. Second, the problem, although widespread, has not affected the whole industry equally. Third, the decline in the rural economy is diluted by the fact that farming is now a much smaller part of the British rural economy than at any previous point in our history.

There are three principal causes of the present situation. The BSE crisis has had a significant effect on the demand for beef. Currently, the farmers with the lowest incomes are the lowland cattle and sheep producers. Although BSE principally affected dairy cattle, it is the beef producers of the north and west of Britain who have suffered most.

The second cause of the crisis in British farming is the strength of the pound. The farming prosperity of the early 1990s, before BSE, was built on a weak pound and an ability to put competitively priced high quality red meat into other EU member states. The strong pound would have succeeded in limiting export markets even if there had been no BSE-driven export ban. The strength of the pound also leads to competitive imports of agricultural products from other countries, further undermining the position of domestic farmers.

The third cause of low incomes this year has been the poor yields and difficult conditions. The wet weather has created harvest difficulties and poor quality crops. Cereal yields are generally down and many cattle have required supplementary nutrition because of the poor quality of grazing. Difficult farming conditions often are counterbalanced by higher prices, as



BSE is just one of the reasons why the farming prosperity of the early Nineties has dissipated so quickly

with potato prices in the aftermath of the 1976 drought but with more open economies these benefits are less apparent.

Of these three factors, the BSE crisis casts a longer shadow than the other two. In spite of evidence that the demand for beef has picked up, BSE leaves a deeper and nagging doubt in the mind of the consumer about the quality of the food we are eating. The pound has slipped back from its peak against the Deutschmark, and although it remains relatively strong, this problem is likely to continue to ease.

Hopefully, the third problem of a year of adverse conditions will not repeat itself again next year.

The problem of lowland farm incomes has not affected all sectors equally. Hill farmers and the lowland livestock producers have undoubtedly suffered most and inevitably many smaller farmers have been amongst the worst hit.

Arable farms and dairy farms have felt the pinch this year and there are problems in the intensive livestock sector which have forced some big players into bankruptcy.

The rural economy is now a vastly different place compared to what it was during previous agricultural depressions in the 1870s

and Thirties. The rural population is not now an occupational community dependent on the land. Instead most rural economies are more mixed. There are large numbers of commuters, and there has been a significant diversification of the rural economy into services (including tourism) and a range of other economic activities.

There are few rural districts where the farming population exceeds 10 per cent of the workforce. The farm sector's influence extends, of course, beyond the farm to the demand for inputs and the selling of outputs to the food industry. The farming population also places more general demands on rural services.

In some areas, such as south west England, west Wales, south west Scotland or Orkney the importance of agriculture is such that it has a significant knock-on effect on other sectors of the rural economy but over many parts of rural Britain the impact of a dramatic reduction in farm incomes will be relatively small.

However, we should beware the fashionable trend to deride the insignificance of agriculture. It is true that many other sectors, such as tourism, are bigger in many

rural areas, including most of the highlands of Scotland and many parts of western England. But rural tourism depends to a considerable degree on the public goods that farming provides.

Impoverished farmers are unlikely to make attractive landscapes. Further, beyond the commuting frontier, there are still large areas where the land-based sector remains the principal motor of the rural economy.

How does this crisis compare to previous downturns in farmers fortunes? The depression of the 1870s and 1880s was caused by free trade and the opening up of new territory that could produce wheat more competitively than British farms.

However, over 100 years ago, Sir James Caird, a prominent agricultural writer, wrote that "agriculture must adapt itself to change, freely accepting the good it brings and skilfully using the advantages to which proximity to the market must always command". The crisis of the late 19th century was particularly a crisis of the cereals sector, and with hindsight, some have asserted that the agricultural depression at this time was a myth constructed by an articulate cereals farming lobby.

Fortunately, many rural households have alternative sources of income. And farmland values will be kept relatively high by those seeking a place in the country. This should help keep values up and stop a downward spiral in land prices.

The crisis of the interwar years was far deeper than the present crisis. Much farmland lay idle. Squatter settlements sprang up on land on which farm production had ceased on some of the heavy clays of Cambridgeshire, and evidence of these settlements can still be seen today. In many parts of rural Britain there was deep poverty, and it took the crisis of war and the accompanying blockade to restore a degree of prosperity. The countryside of the pre-war years was described by the wartime Scott Report as "ragged and unkempt".

But the present crisis is real and, for the much smaller farming community of the present, it is deeply felt. The principal sufferers are those farm households that have not diversified outside farming and are exclusively dependent on agriculture and its allied industries. A proportion of farmers will be driven from business, but this shake-out will be unlikely to reach the levels of the Thirties.

Fortunately, many rural households have alternative sources of income. And farmland values will be kept relatively high by those seeking a place in the country. This should help keep values up and stop a downward spiral in land prices.

The present crisis is also psychological. Farmers feel more unwanted than at any time in the last 50 years. Having been praised as food-producing heroes in the post-war period, it has been hard to adjust to being derided as subsidy junkies and destroyers of the environment. But, as Sir James Caird noted in his day, that the industry must adjust to new circumstances, remains true today.

These new circumstances are not those of the short term - BSE, currency fluctuations, and bad harvests. Farmers must also face the prospect of deeper changes to the Common Agricultural Policy in the wake of the next round of agreements on world trade.

No one knows yet how these reforms will develop, but it is reasonable to suppose that our farmers will face more competition from abroad and find production-related subsidies even more difficult to come by. It gives farmers little hope for the future to realise that hot on the heels of the present crisis, another deeper and more structural crisis must be faced.

The writer is senior lecturer in rural economics at Aberdeen University

## RIGHT OF REPLY

DR IAN BOGLE



The chairman of the Council of the British Medical Association replies to Monday's leader

RECENT CASES uncovering incompetence among doctors have quite rightly highlighted the way in which the medical profession seeks to regulate its performance. They have also raised the question of how the safety of patients can best be ensured.

The British Medical Association will play no part in supporting unacceptable levels of performance by doctors. The days when doctors thought they could turn a blind eye to the incompetence of their colleagues have gone.

Doctors should be under no illusion about their obligations. They are required by general medical council guidelines to report colleagues whose performance they believe to be below acceptable standards. The medical profession is now promoting a culture of openness and critical self-appraisal. I want to see the concept of whistleblowing among doctors rendered obsolete. We must work towards a situation in which doctors who are putting patients at risk are quickly identified and helped.

We have proposed a system of individual appraisal for consultants under which senior clinical specialists would be asked to review their clinical and non-clinical performance. The way doctors conduct their work and perform is best assessed by people doing the same job.

There must also be a means by which doctors can compare their own performance with that of their peers.

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The writer is senior lecturer in rural economics at Aberdeen University

# Portrait of a troubled artist

## WEDNESDAY BOOK

WOODY ALLEN: A BIOGRAPHY  
BY JOHN BAXTER. HARPERCOLLINS, £19.99

In complicated, elusive ways, Allen seemed different from other film stars, more open and intimate with his audience. This explained both the fervency of his admirers and the particular fury felt when he abandoned the mother of his child for the teenage step-sister of that child.

What other star would inspire a biography like this one, so grimly determined to catalogue all the discrepancies, failures and hypocrisies? Some of these, admittedly, are hang-ups.

## WEDNESDAY POEM

FROM 'THE SONG OF SONGS'  
IN A VERSION BY PETER JAY

I am my lover's, his desire is for me.  
Come, my love, let us go to the country,  
stay in a village, get up early, go  
down to the vineyards to see  
whether the vines are in bud  
the grape-blossom open  
and the pomegranate blooming...

There I will give you my love.

Mandrakes breathe out their fragrance.  
By our doors you will find  
all the fruit, new and old, my love  
which I have stored for you.

Peter Jay's version of the Song of Songs. Just reissued by Anvil Press (£5.95), treats it as 'a small anthology of varied love poems, composed over several centuries of Hebrew history'.



'Love and Death' - not to be confused with real life

Drink the Water). No other Hollywood film-maker can even begin to compete with this record.

More than this, he has done it entirely on his own terms. Characteristically, John Baxter accuses Allen of both courting fame and arrogantly ignoring audiences. Like too many current critics, he has difficulty in separating artistic achievement from success at the box office. On the other hand, Baxter seems to consider Allen's relative financial success in Europe (which has frequently compensated for failure in America) as somehow inauthentic.

Baxter virtually tears in the book's final pages, describing the financial crisis of a few months ago which forced Allen to dismiss many of the collaborators he had kept on contract for two decades. As if the real miracle was not how such a personal film-maker had kept such a team together for so long...

Allen's output has been extremely

variable, ranging from the depths of September to the heights of Manhattan or The Purple Rose of Cairo. But he has never made a film cynically, in the way that Steven Spielberg made The Lost World. Even when his ideas don't quite come off - as with the Greek chorus in Mighty Aphrodite - there is a pleasure in seeing something that hasn't been smoothed out by too many meetings and memos from executives. And I'm glad to hear that Allen does not allow his actors any input at all into their roles.

Much of this goes for the "damaging" biographical detail as well. Woody Allen probably isn't as nice as John Baxter and I are to our partners and children. But how does Baxter think that you write, cast, shoot, star in and edit a film - not just once but every year? If this is nastiness, I wish that Orson Welles, Preston Sturges and other Hollywood casualties had had some of it.

SEAN FRENCH

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# Professor Stuart Sutherland

STUART SUTHERLAND started life as a journalist, and spent much of the last 20 years as a writer, reviewer, columnist and novelist. But in between, he lived the blameless (well, fairly blameless) life of a successful academic psychologist, initially at Oxford and then as first Professor of Experimental Psychology at Sussex University. Still less than 40 years old when he left Oxford, he was already a commanding figure in British psychology.

All this changed in the early 1970s, when he suffered, according to him with no apparent warning, a sudden and severe depressive breakdown. The depression lasted for months, and then, again according to his own account, stopped almost as suddenly as it had begun. In fact, the absence of depression soon gave way to manic episodes, and for several years, until he eventually agreed to try lithium treatment, he cycled between deep depression every summer and hypomania every winter. But he put his experience to good use, writing a book *Breakdown: a personal crisis and a medical dilemma* (1978), that described in frank and frightening detail what it is like to suffer from manic depression.

Although psychiatric illness may not seem the most enthralling of topics, *Breakdown* is a compellingly readable book. And even if the autobiographical chapters did not always please all his friends and relatives, the book surely succeeded in one of its stated aims: to remove some of the stigma surrounding mental illness. Never afraid to bare his soul, or make public admission of actions and feelings that the more reticent of us would seek anxiously to conceal, Sutherland was the ideal person to tell what it is like to be mentally ill, and to describe the impact his illness had both on himself and on others.

As an academic psychologist, he could also bring a more professional perspective to bear, and *Break-*

*down* provides not only an entertaining and delightfully rude account of his experience at the hands of an unfortunate psychoanalyst, but also an informed and readable account of the state of psychological and psychiatric knowledge of the causes, consequences and treatment of mental illness. The story of his breakdown provided the inspiration for Simon Gray's play *Malon*.

After his illness, Sutherland abandoned the laboratory and took up writing, reviewing and journalism. His reviews, at first mostly of psychological books in journals such as *Nature*, were opinionated but never dull, and always notable for their remarkable breadth of knowledge. From there he branched out into reviews of books on any subject under the sun, in the weekly press and in several national newspapers.

He continued to write on psychology, producing single-handedly a *Dictionary of Psychology* (1989) for

*Never afraid to bare his soul, Sutherland was the ideal person to tell what it is like to be mentally ill*

Macmillan and, most recently a book, *Irrationality: the enemy within* (1992), in which he drew on research in social psychology to illustrate the ways in which people, including generals, civil servants, doctors and scientists, many of whom have been expensively trained to know better, not only behave irrationally in their own lives, but also make irrational decisions with momentous consequences for others.



Sutherland at Sussex University, where he was Professor of Experimental Psychology 1964-92

Although sometimes in later life failing to despise academic psychology, Sutherland remained a psychologist to the end. His earlier career had been one of exceptional promise and equally exceptional achievement. Born in Birmingham in 1927 and educated at King Edward's School, he read Classics at Oxford and went on to do National Service. He then returned to Oxford to read Psychology and Philosophy, gaining a prize fellowship at Magdalen and started a research programme on perception and discrimination learning in animals that, among other things, took him every summer to the Stazione Zoologica in Naples, where he worked on octopuses alongside J.Z. Young.

Two spells as a visiting professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology strengthened his belief

that artificial intelligence and computational modelling provided new and powerful ways to tackle the problems of cognitive psychology, and in 1964 he moved to Sussex University (Balliol by the sea, as it was known in those days) to set up a new department of experimental psychology. Sussex remained his academic base for the rest of his life.

Within a few years, the department he established was recognised

as among the best two or three in the country, and brought to England a steady stream of distinguished visiting psychologists from North America and elsewhere. The people he appointed to teaching posts, and the research students they attracted, have since become professors at half a dozen British universities as well as several abroad – Princeton, Toronto and Sydney. In part, this was because he was a good judge of po-

tential, in part because of the breadth of his interests in psychology. But it was the force of his personality that moulded the department. Love him or hate him, you had to strive harder – either to live up to his expectations, or to avoid his wrath. He was a formidably clever man, quick to follow an argument, even quicker to spot its flaws. As a teacher, he was both extraordinarily stimulating and quite terrifying. His own grasp of the subject, depth of understanding and enthusiasm provided an unrivalled education, and could excite a matching enthusiasm in anyone prepared to withstand the critical onslaught of a man who sometimes seemed determined to live up to clichés about not suffering fools gladly.

He was equally unwilling to suffer for the constraints imposed by convention and, even when not in a manic mode, took delight in outrageous behaviour. Easily bored by polite conversation, he had no compunction in leaving a dinner party in mid-meal, even one given in his own house, for a quick drink in the pub. It was easy to mistake this desire to shock for cruelty or unkindness. But Stuart Sutherland was, as many friends can testify, a kind and generous man. And his friendship was valuable for much more than that. Endlessly fascinated by the world around him, always with something new and thought-provoking to say on any subject, whether he knew anything about it or not, his conversation and companionship enriched many lives.

NICHOLAS MACKINTOSH

Norman Stuart Sutherland, experimental psychologist and writer: born Birmingham 26 March 1927; Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford 1954-58; Lecturer in Experimental Psychology, Oxford University 1960-64; Fellow of Merton College, Oxford 1963-64; Professor of Experimental Psychology, Sussex University 1964-92; married 1956 Jose Fogden (two daughters); died Brighton, East Sussex 8 November 1998.

## Monica Baly

*Baly made her name in 1970 as an organiser of the 'Raising the Roof' campaign which saw nurses receive an unprecedented 22 per cent pay award*



THE FOUNDATIONS of modern-day nursing in Britain were little documented until, in retirement, Monica Baly put pen to paper with a series of influential studies on the history and development of the profession.

She based her findings on a first-hand understanding of it and a well-researched investigation of the social climate in which nurses worked. Her PhD thesis – prepared at the grand age of 70 – was a re-evaluation of Florence Nightingale, on whom Baly was a world authority. It was later developed into a book, *Florence Nightingale and the Nursing Legacy*, published in 1986.

This described how a Nightingale Council had been set up during the Crimean War to collect money from "a grateful nation" for the founding of nursing schools and had determined the direction of 20th-century nursing. Nightingale was none too pleased at the idea of being remembered this way and a controversy which was hushed up at the time.

Like Florence Nightingale, Monica Baly battled throughout her life to improve nurses' training and conditions. She made her name in 1970 as an organiser of the "Raising the Roof" campaign which, after five weeks of intensive lobbying of parliament, saw nurses receive an unprecedented 22 per cent pay award. The dispute had, she conceded, contained "ugly and violent" elements, but she justified it by claiming that militancy had become a social fact: "When members of the community – including nurses – feel that they are being pushed down and lowly regarded, they manifest their anger with a response that has become successively more speedy and aggressive".

We sat down and compiled a budget based on the current cost of living, knowing that you could not live any sort of reasonable life on the basic salary being paid to health visitors at that time. I later learned that my figures were incorporated in the case for new pay scales put before the Whitley Council. It was my first little bit of rebellion and it paid off.

A chance meeting in France with the chairman of the Royal College of Nursing in 1951 led to her next appointment as the RCN's Western Area Organiser, based in Bath, where her goal was to increase the degree of professionalism within

genteel rebelliousness also continued and in 1970 she was called to London to organise the RCN's historic campaign. She was particularly proud that despite the militancy, there was no strike action.

She argued, are ill at home and nursing would one day have to reassert itself in the community.

The following year Baly threw herself into retirement with the same degree of zeal she had exercised during her working life. Within a month of hanging up her thermometer she was back for a few months at a short-staffed RCN before launching herself into an Open University degree followed by post-graduate studies at London University.

Her other books included *Professional Responsibility in the Community Health Services* (1975), *A New Approach to District Nursing* (1981), *As Florence Nightingale Snid* (1991), and *The History of the Queen's Nursing Institute* (1987), for which she was appointed Centenary Fellow of the QNI, in recognition of her many distinctions in the field of nursing. She also became the first chairman of the RCN's History of Nursing Group and in 1988 was awarded a fellowship of the RCN.

Baly lived in the Royal Crescent in Bath for 47 years, campaigning with the same degree of vigour for its preservation and assiduously supporting other causes which she believed in, including the Royal British Legion's annual Poppy Day appeal, the Bath Festival, and Bath Abbey where she was a devout member of the congregation.

An avid reader of *The Independent*, Monica Baly left a codicil to her will asking that, if she received posthumous recognition, it should be within this newspaper's pages.

MONTY WILLIAMS

THE CRICKETER Monty Williams was nicknamed "Boogles" in his native Barbados, in tribute to the dexterity of his quickish leg breaks and googlies. He was also a good enough right-hand batsman to be classed as an all-rounder but it was as a teacher, diplomat and ambassador that he was able to make a major contribution to his home island and to the West Indies.

As a young all-rounder from a family of 10 children, he was bright enough to gain a college education before being chosen, aged 24, for the 1950 tour of England. At the time he was ranked before two tyro spinners, Alfie Valentine and Sonny Ramadhin. The rest, as they say, is history. Ramadhin and Valentine became "those two little pals of mine" in cricket's most famous calypso as they bowled West Indies to their first Test victory and first series win in England.

In a team that also contained Frank Worrell, Everton Weekes and Clyde Walcott, it is not surprising that Williams became one of the forgotten men of that touring party, which also included Ken Trestrail, hailed

as the "Boy Wonder" before the tour, and Roy Marshall, who was later to win fame with Hampshire.

Williams was thus confined to a supporting role. He achieved one or two good performances with his leg breaks and frequent googlies but inevitably lacked chances to run into all-round form. He was a better batsman than his figures suggest," wrote Peter West.

Williams' outstanding performance was a 7-55, of 32 overs, in MCC's second innings at Lord's, against an MCC batting order containing Reg Simpson, Jack Robertson, Bill Edrich and Norman Yardley.

"There was much promise about the varied spin of Williams ... who stayed in England in order to go to Durham University," commented Wisden.

After a year at Durham, Williams took an education degree at Oxford and returned home to play for Barbados, to teach at Harrison College and to join the Board of the Barbados Cricket Association. In 1954 he joined the civil service on a fast track, rising to Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education by 1958.

After two years on a scholarship at New College, Oxford, he became in turn High Commissioner to Canada, Ambassador to the United States and High Commissioner to the UK, retiring into business in 1979. He was appointed OBE in 1963 and made a Companion of Honour of Barbados in 1982. He was a music lover, especially of organ music and is remembered by Bajans for his modesty and integrity.

DEREK HODGSON

Cecil Beaumont Williams, diplomat and cricketer: born Barbados 8 March 1926; OBE 1963; married 1952 Dorothy Marshall (two sons, one daughter); died Pickering, Ontario 20 September 1998.

## Harold Lightman



Company law and insolvency

HAROLD LIGHTMAN was an example of someone who overcame initial disadvantages to reach the peak of his profession.

He was born in Leeds in 1906. His parents were Lithuanian Jews who had fled Russian pogroms and his father set up a furniture manufacturing company. Lightman attended the City of Leeds School until he was 14, when he began to experience headaches. He worked in his father's factory, and at the age of 18 discovered that poor eyesight was the cause of his problem, cured by the use of glasses. Then, while his father was on holiday, he did a good deal for the business; his reward of £100 enabled him to study at evening classes in Leeds, and qualify as an accountant.

By 1927, at the age of 21, he was a partner in the accountancy firm of Lightman and Sharp, the director of two manufacturing companies, and had written a book on company financing. He also became engaged in Liberal Party politics, having already, at the age of 17, shared a platform with Lloyd George. He was the Liberal candidate for the Bramley ward in the 1927 Leeds City Council election and, although unsuccessful on this occasion, was subsequently offered three Parliamentary candidacies for the 1929 General Election. However, he decided not to stand for Parliament but to study for the Bar.

In 1931 he came to London to complete his legal studies and was

called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn the following year. He would have been awarded the inn's top scholarship, but it was discovered that he was too old to be eligible for it. However, the same scholarship was awarded to his son Gavin, in 1951, and to his grandson Daniel in 1993.

Lightman was disadvantaged in his early legal career by the fact that he had not been to university and was Jewish. However, he had great determination and a considerable knowledge of accounts. This latter skill enabled him, while still a pupil, to assist the head of his chambers at 1 New Square, Alexander Grant QC, who was so impressed with the advice given by Lightman that he invited him to stay on as a member of Na-

chambers. This he did for 10 years until Grant's death in 1942, when he moved to 13 Old Square.

During the Second World War Lightman served in the Home Guard and his practice continued to grow. He was appointed a QC in 1955. His work, because of his background, was largely in the fields of company law and insolvency, but he was well regarded by his solicitor clients and his fellow practitioners as someone who always gave to his work the detailed care and attention it needed and whose advocacy was sound and reliable.

In 1962 he was appointed a member of Lincoln's Inn and in 1968 became head of chambers. One of his leading cases was that of Na-

tional Provincial Bank v Ainsworth where Lightman, appearing for a defendant wife, persuaded the majority of the Court of Appeal (Lords Denning, MR, and Donovan) that she had a right, good as against a bank mortgagee, to stay on in the matrimonial home. This decision was subsequently overturned by the House of Lords, but the position is now governed by statute.

Unfortunately Lightman's career

was cut short in 1967, when he suffered a stroke, although with great determination he taught himself to write with his left hand, he was unable to resume his practice. He and his wife continued to live in a flat in Lincoln's Inn where he was able to enjoy the company of his friends: his

great geniality made him a popular member.

It gave him great pleasure when his son Gavin (then also a Chancery silk) became a bENCHER in 1987, and even greater pleasure to see him appointed a judge of the High Court in 1994; of his other sons Stuart is a solicitor and Stafford is Professor of Medicine at Bristol University.

JOHN BALCOMBE  
Harold Lightman, barrister: born Leeds 8 April 1906; called to the Bar, Lincoln's Inn 1932; QC 1955; Master of the Bench of Lincoln's Inn 1962; Head of Chambers, 13 Old Square 1968; married 1936 Gwendoline Ostrer (three sons); died London 27 September 1998.

John Balcombe

## Kenny Kirkland

BEGINNING HIS career as a teacher of classical music, Kenny Kirkland next became a jazz musician. Later he emerged from his jazz chrysalis as a practitioner of exotic pop/rock music and finally shed his wings to follow the mundane but financially more stable profession of studio musician.

In the middle part of his career Kirkland was an associate of Wynton Marsalis. Some musicians and writers now regard Marsalis as the greatest trumpeter that jazz has produced. It is not surprising therefore that the five years Kirkland spent working for him (1981-85) should have been such a powerful influence on him.

The enthusiasm and urgency Kirkland applied to his piano lessons when he was six confirmed that his life was to be devoted to music, "although it wasn't until I was 13 that it actually caught on for me," he remembered. He began by studying classical music, but, distracted by the radio, he soon became interested in rhythm and blues. He absorbed the sounds of James Brown, Sly Stone and the Temptations. "I tried to learn something from everyone."

He studied classical piano performance at the Manhattan School of Music for 18 months and then classical theory and composition before graduating as a teacher. A month before he was due to graduate he broke both his legs, his jaw, his wrist and one hip.

On his recovery, Kirkland moved into one of New York's celebrated lofts and it turned out to be one that musicians used to turn up to after work to play at all-night jam sessions. This was not conducive to the germination of pedagogy and, at the instigation of three jazz pianists who became his friends - Larry Willis of Blood, Sweat and Tears, Herbie Hancock and Kenny Barron - he threw himself into the world of jazz, playing electric keyboards and acoustic piano.

Initially Hancock's playing had the most effect on his work, but he was eclectic and developed his own style, becoming particularly effective in the difficult role of accompanist. He joined the band of another friend, the violinist Michael Urbaniak, playing electric keyboards when he toured Europe with the group in 1977. He worked with other bands and in 1979 recorded a fusion album, *What It Is*, with the saxophonist Dave Liebman.

The same year Kirkland joined Miroslav Vitous, the bassist who had become famous with Weather Report. By 1981 the pianist was working in a band led by the drummer Elvin Jones and moved from there to join the trumpeter



I tried to learn something from everyone': Kirkland in 1991

Tim Hall / Redferns

Terumasa Hino, one of Japan's outstanding musicians. It was while on tour with Hino in Japan that Wynton Marsalis, also on tour at the time, first heard Kirkland. Marsalis persuaded him to leave Hino and the longest association of Kirkland's life began.

While his work with the trumpeter's quintet opened Kirkland's horizons, the pianist also reciprocated with some of the finest accompanying work Marsalis had ever had. He had a part to play in all of Marsalis's projects and took a major role in the albums that first made the trumpeter's name. He also benefited from the exposure he got on Marsalis's ceaseless international tours.

Spending some time with the Marsalis brothers and Kirkland in the early Eighties at the Nice Jazz Festival, I was awestruck by the experience

that these young men had already acquired and by the powerful intellects with which they were able to interpret it. Although they were then new upon the European scene, it appeared to be obvious that the future of jazz was in their hands.

Wynton Marsalis made no bones about his scorn when Kirkland left his band in extraordinary circumstances in 1985. The pianist and Marsalis's brother, the saxophone-playing Branford, changed idiom to play rock music with Sting. While with the pop star they recorded the album *The Dream of Blue Turtles* (1985) and joined him for a lengthy term of international touring. At this time Kirkland played piano on Dizzy Gillespie's *New Faces* album (1984), but despite the good Gillespie material used, the session produced lack-

lustre performances as the trumpeter was coming to the end of his career as an instrumentalist.

Kirkland became a session musician in the early Nineties and joined the show band of the American television programme *Tommy* where he worked until his death. Branford Marsalis directed the band. Kirkland recorded the only album under his own name in 1991 for the GRP label and also worked in the all-star big band sessions recorded for the company at the same period. In 1993 he was the subject of one of Marian McPartland's distinguished *Piano Jazz* programmes for American public radio.

STEVE VOCE

*Kenneth David Kirkland, pianist; born New York 28 September 1955; died New York c12 November 1998.*

## GAZETTE

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

#### BIRTHS

COOMBETENNANT: On 30 October, to Sue (née Scott) and Charles, a daughter, Bluesta, a twin of her brother, Dylan, a sister to Oliver and Toby.

WATSON: 18 October 1998. Rupert and Sally are delighted to welcome Georgia Abigail Clara, a sister to Tabitha.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £5.50 a line (VAT extra).

OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages), which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Always include a daytime telephone number.

Our e-mail address is [obituaries@independent.co.uk](mailto:obituaries@independent.co.uk)

The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000.

#### BIRTHDAYS

The Right Rev Dewi Bridges, Bishop of Swansea and Brecon, 65; Sir Kenneth Clucas, former senior civil servant, 77; Professor Charles Cowan, former Chairman of Convocation, London University, 75; Lord Cullen, a Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 63; The Rev Dr Vivian Green, former Rector: Lincoln College, Oxford, 63; Mr David Hemmings, actor and director, 57; Mr John Hosier, former Director, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, 70; Baroness Jay of Paddington, Minister of State for Health, 59; Sir Gordon Jewell, former diplomat, 67; Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, chairman of St Dunstan's for Service War Blinded, 75; Mr Alan Pryce-Jones, writer and critic, 90; Professor John Quigley, former Vice-Chancellor, Bath University, 72; Sir Murray Smart-Smith, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 71; Sir Tasker Watkins VC, a former Lord Justice of Appeal, and former Deputy Chief Justice of England, 80; Miss Kim Wilde, singer, 38.

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Vespasian, Roman Emperor, AD 9; Louis-

#### JACQUES MANDÉ DAGUERRE, photographic pioneer, 1789;

Sir William Schwenck Gilbert, playwright and librettist, 1836; Percy Wyndham Lewis, artist and writer, at sea 1882; John Herndon (Johnny) Mercer, composer and singer, 1906; Deaths: Reginald, Cardinal Pole, 1558; Marcel Proust, writer, 1922; Mervyn Laurence Peake, writer and artist, 1968. On this day: William Caxton issued his first dated printed book, 1477; St Peter's, Rome, was consecrated, 1626; the first Mickey Mouse cartoon - Steamboat Willie - was shown, 1928; fire broke out at King's Cross underground station, and 30 people died, 1967. Today is the Feast Day of St Mawes or Maudez, St Odio of Cluny and St Romanus of Antioch.

#### LECTURES

National Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "Sacrifices (III): Manet, The Execution of Maximilian", 1pm; William Vaughan, "Going Modern and Being British", 6.30pm.

Victoria and Albert Museum: Simone Mathews, "Raphael's Cartoons and Precursors", 2pm.

Tate Gallery: Adrian Searle, "Turner Prize Exhibition", 1pm, 3pm.

Fine Art and Antiques Fair, Olympia National Hall, Lou-

don W14: Andrew Bolton, "New China, Ancient Art", 6.30pm (for tickets, telephone 0171-379 8345).

British Museum: Lesley Fenton, "The Palace of Minos and Knossos", 11.30am.

Wallace Collection, London W1: Jennifer Stern, "Introduction to Sévres Porcelain", 1pm.

Institute of Education, London WC1: Professor Gerd Leidemann, "The Great Deception: what Jesus really said and did", 6.30pm.

Kufla Gallery, London W2: Fran Hazelton and June Peters, "The Epic of Gilgamesh", 7.15pm.

Gresham Lecture, Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC1: Professor Lynette Hunter, "Is Letter-Writing Literature? And What About Diaries?", 1pm; The Rev Professor Richard Holloway, "What is the Use of the Bible?", 5.30pm.

RSA, London WC2: Perri 6.

Peter Hitchens, Sir Peter Kemp, Kirsty Milne, Martin Shreeve, "Joined-up Thinking in Government - the answer for a better Britain?", 6.30pm (for tickets, telephone 0171-976 2423).

#### DINNERS

Shrilevity of Greater London

Mr John Gough, High Sheriff, and Mrs Gough were the

hosts at a dinner held yesterday evening by the Shrine of Greater London at Fishmongers' Hall, London EC4. Lord Bramall, Lord Lieutenant of Greater London, and Lady Bramall were the guests of honour.

#### ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION

The Duke of Edinburgh presented the Duke of Edinburgh English-Speaking Union Award, for the best and most innovative work in the field of teaching or learning the English language, yesterday at Buckingham Palace, London SW1. Lord Quirk, Vice-Chairman, English Language Committee, Baroness Brigstocke, ESU Chairman, and Mrs Valerie Mitchell, ESU Director-General, also attended.

#### MARITIME FOUNDATION

Countess Mountbatten of Burma, President of the Maritime Foundation, presented the 1998 Desmond Wetenek Maritime Media Award to Mr Michael Evans, Defence Editor, *The Times*, at a reception held yesterday evening on board HQS Wellington, London SW1.

#### CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry

Mounted Regiment mounts

the Queen's Life Guard at

Horse Guards, 11am;

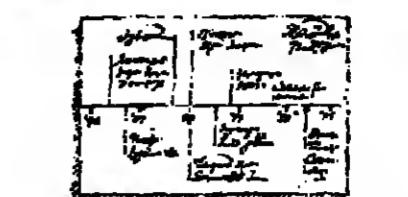
Nijmegen Company Cold-

stream Guards mounts the

Queen's Guard, at Bucking-

ham Palace, 11.30am, band

provided by the Welsh Guards.



### HISTORICAL NOTES

VENETIA MURRAY

## The undisputed 'King of the Dandies'

THE REGENCY buck, beau or dandy is an immortal figure. Urbane, elegant and totally masculine, he was an icon to his contemporaries and has been celebrated in romantic fiction ever since. He is not to be confused with his 18th-century predecessors, the *top*, the *fiddle* or the *cavalcade*. It was true that the genus had many variations but to mistake a Corinthian for a dandy would have been as insulting to both at the time as failing to distinguish between mods and rockers in the 1950s.

The most absurd of all the 18th-century styles was that of the *Macerons* who flourished in the 1770s. They were a group of young men who tottered round Mayfair in satiric shoes with four-inch heels and diamond buckles, wearing wigs a yard high, and carrying such accessories as muff, flowers and fans. Throughout the 18th century, in fact, the extravagance of a man's dress had been an indication of his status and the means by which he expressed his aesthetic discrimination - the more costly and brilliant the better.

It was "Bear" Brummell, the "King of the Dandies" during the Regency who decreed that such ostentation was vulgar and that true style lay in absolute simplicity. His views caused a fashion revolution whose effects have lasted to the present day. Brummell and his fellow-dandies invented the mas-

cule "uniform" of a plain dark suit, white shirt and cravat, which is still recognised as the only permissible attire for "formal wear" throughout the Western world.

Dandism attracted as much adverse criticism as praise, and the word was more often used in a derogatory sense than as an accolade. The Regency dandy was caricatured as a ridiculous figure in contemporary cartoons and any aspirant to the style was liable to be mocked as a "veritable tulip" or a "pink of the ton".

Brummell was the undisputed leader of society for more than 15 years, universally accepted as the arbiter of fashion and ultimate authority on all matters of manners and mores throughout his "reign". It was said he could make or break a social aspirant with the lift of an eyebrow. The Prince of Wales once burst into tears because Brummell criticised the cut of his coat.

Such affectations were par for the course amongst the Dandy Set, but led to financial disaster. Alvanley, like many of his fellow-dandies, gambled heavily and ended up in debt. His horses and carriages were seized and only the fishmonger would give him credit. He was lucky, as a peer he could not be imprisoned for debt.

Comoners, like Brummell himself, enjoyed no such privilege. Rather than go to gaol they fled the country. It was possible at that time to live cheaply in Paris and this coterie of bankrupt dandies probably had rather a pleasant time, swapping reminiscences of their days of glory - certainly better than a stretch in Fleet prison.

Venetia Murray is the author of *High Society, A Social History of the Regency Period 1783-1830* (Viking, £20)

## Measure of damages for negligent survey

### WEDNESDAY LAW REPORT

18 NOVEMBER 1998

Patel and anor v Hooper & Jackson

Court of Appeal  
(Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Mantell)  
10 November 1998

award must accordingly be discharged and an award of damages made in conventional form.

The question as to the correct measure of damages then arose. The prima facie rule applicable to the measure of damages in respect of negligent surveys of houses for private purchasers was the diminution in value of the property.

However, each case depended on its own facts, and in the present case there were said to be special features which entitled the plaintiffs to additional damages. Applying the dicta of Romer *v* Phillips *v* Ward [1956] 1 All ER 284, a purchaser was entitled to damages for the reasonable costs of extricating himself from the purchase.

In the present case, the house having been uninhabitable except at a cost which the plaintiffs were unable to contemplate, there was no reason in principle why they should not be able to recover the costs of their alternative accommodation until such time as they were able to sell the house and acquire another in its place.

The plaintiffs appealed, accepting that they were liable to the plaintiffs for damages equivalent to the diminution in value, but contending that the award for mortgage interest and insurance premiums was contrary to principle and ought to be discharged. Andrew Morsden (Banks Ashton, Bury St Edmunds) for the plaintiffs; Daniel Worsley (Lloyd Cooper) for the defendants.

Lord Justice Nourse said that the powers of the court in a case such as the present were confined to making an award of damages, and that the judge's

pause, but his rhyming slang then makes sense.

Tit for tat, hat, which goes back to the First World War - and on to the musical *Me and My Girl*, a work which is a far cry from that blistering version of "Like a Rolling Stone" into which Dylan was goaded by the audience cry of "Judas!" A masterpiece.

### WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

titfer, n.

Kershaw - who locked himself away for three days to decipher Dylan's every brilliant, mumbled remark on the disc - makes one

# You ask the questions

(Such as: Barry Manilow, have you ever considered plastic surgery? And would you try Viagra?)

**B**arry Manilow was born in Brooklyn in 1946. He has recorded 29 albums (his latest is *Manilow Sings Sinatra*) and the hit singles, "Mandy" and "I Write The Songs". Dismissed as terminally naif, he has sold more than 50 million records. Manilow, who has produced other artists such as Dionne Warwick, lives in Los Angeles.

Have you ever considered plastic surgery? What's the secret of your youthful looks? *Angela Parr, Edinburgh*. I think my passion for music keeps me young. I will probably turn old as soon as I ever decide to retire, which I will never do.

Which song do you wish you had written? *Lesley McEwan, Camden*. "Tryin' To Get The Feeling Again". David Pomeranz wrote a real winner. Just the first few bars are enough to make me melt.

Who was Mandy? *Louisa Morgan, Billericay*. Ask the writer Scott English.

When was the last time you cried and why? *Sheila Wood, Glamorgan*. My new musical, *Harmony*, opened in California last year. We've been working on it for seven years. At the end of the show the audience rose to their feet cheering and weeping, and I lost it.

Have your female fans ever been fanatically obsessed? *Donna Miles, Bromley*. There have been some overly enthusiastic people during my career, but mostly my fans are great people with restraint, considering what a sex-god I've become.

Do you believe in God? *Sylvia Norton, Chester*. Yes, of course. His name is



Clive Davis and he is president of my record company, Arista records.

Which of your songs do you like the most? *Kate Harkin, Fulham*. "Ooo Voice".

I really enjoyed Take That's upbeat version of "Could it be Magic". Have you ever been tempted to give any of your other ballads the up-tempo treatment? If so, which ones? *Liz Charlton, Sevenoaks*

During the last tour, I put a lit-

te more muscular groove underneath "Looks Like We Made It" and I thought it sounded pretty good.

Have you ever considered recording a CD of classically-inspired music? Your ver-

sion of Schubert's "Ave Maria" is the best I've ever heard, and "Could It Be Magic" is based on a Prelude by Chopin.

*Caroline Griffin, London* WI

I have considered delving further into classical music but I don't feel I have the proper training to pull it off. I listen to classical music all the time because that's where all the great melodies are. I'm sure they have influenced my writing for years.

Could you please make up two lines of a song dedicated to me - one of your biggest fans, of course. I'd be so flattered. I'm divorced - I love golf, picnics, taking my dog for a walk, candlelit dinners and classical music. I look forward to your lyrics. *Jean Forge, Chalfont St Giles*

Considering that my forte is melody and not lyric, I'll give

it a try: Jean, Jean, Bo Bean Banana fanna fo fean Me My Mo Mean - Jean!

What's your idea of the most romantic evening out? Does it involve *Pina Colada*? *Jayne Boyle, Cardiff*

My most romantic evening wouldn't take place outside. Rent a video, order a pizza, open a bottle of wine, light the fire, make love.

mistaken me for Tom Jones.

Is your Jewishness important to you? *Meg Wolfrom, Shrewsbury*

No, Human-ness is.

Who do you admire most in pop music at the moment? *Kerry Lewis, Clapham*

Sting.

## YOU ASK THE QUESTIONS

NEXT WEEK: SIR EDWARD HEATH, THEN FOLLOWING, NOEL EDMONDS

Please send any questions you would like to put to

Sir Edward Heath or Noel

Edmonds to: You Ask The

Questions, Features

Dept, The Independent,

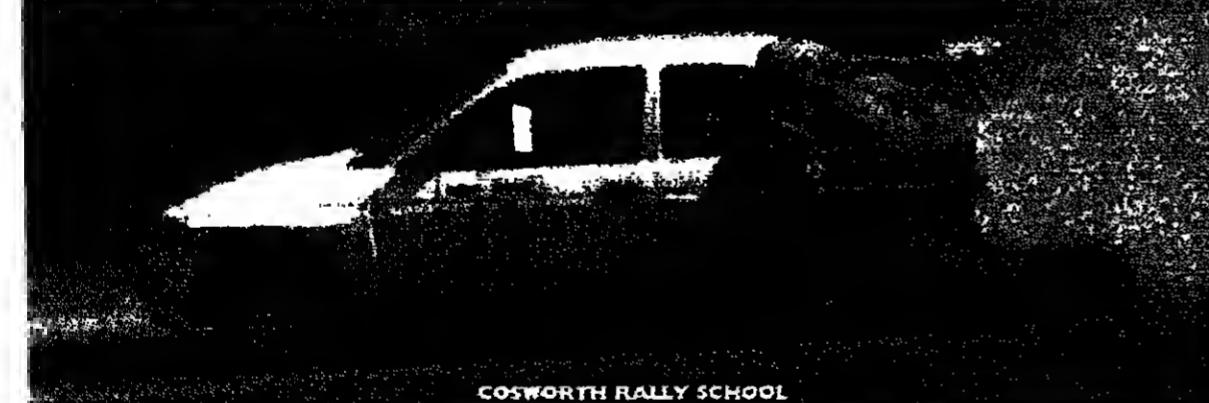
1 Canada Square, Canary

Wharf, London, E14 5DL

Or fax on 0171-233 2182 or e-mail to: [yourquestions@independent.co.uk](mailto:yourquestions@independent.co.uk) - by noon on Friday, 20 November



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AT CIRCUITS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

## Tina's big idea

Continued from Page 1  
movies, books, equity and, at the core, a magazine protected my 20-year knowledge base."

And Tina's expertise will be the source of the synergy that already exists between the different types of media, but all structured in one organisation. It's never worked before, but if anyone can do it, it's Brown and Galotti. They have an unusual track record. Brown is three-for-three so far (*Tatler, The New Yorker*). And in an industry where the scrapyards are full of relaunched magazines that didn't float, this achievement is unequalled.

And how about the Weinsteins? Tina says: "The atmosphere at Miramax is invigorating. It's like a mobile cardiology unit: there's a general sense of tension which is only broken up by moments of mania. They have 50 films in production at any one time, and there's always one going haywire. It's a three-cellphone culture. I'm the happiest I've been since *Tatler*. What we have is a creative cell inside a robust commercial company. Miramax, which has flair and financial success, and it's all backed by Disney, which is as solid as the Bank of America.

"There's no bureaucracy, we're hiring from scratch, and people are very willing to come and join us. It's very, very exhilarating. All we have to do is produce a magazine that everyone wants to buy."

get a portrait of *The New Yorker*, the most respected literary weekly in America, where there were (indeed, are) punctuation editors, and writers might take years to come up with an article.

And in this long piece, we

would relish the comedy of the

East-Coast literati bumping

up against a more modern

idea of what magazines are.

Tina's career here. It would

cover the court at Condé Nast,

its billionaire owner - the

extravagance, the extravaganza,

the staff who are so indulged

that, for example, when they

travel, they FedEx their luggage

to their destination because it

isn't done to be seen carrying

things from the airport.

This long article would unpack the political theme of how organisations change, and how the changes are resisted. We'd

books possible. The first is a career biography, with its theme of change and its context of byzantine opulence and intrigue. The second is a novel, perhaps in the genre of *Bonfire of the Vanities*, with a plucky English heroine pitting herself against the forces of reaction, taking on the establishment and winning.

As the book, or books, are published, a Tina TV-documentary is broadcast. This interviews her friends and enemies, uses newspaper cuts and footage to measure her achievements, and compares the facts of her career with the fictionalised version.

Finally, the novel is turned into a moody film about Manhattan powerbrokers and billionaires, with Kristin Scott Thomas playing a version of the American dream. It's *The English Patient* crossed with *Wall Street*, but ending like *Chariots of Fire*.

That's a synergistic plan. Would everyone want to read it? Well, that would doubtless depend on the commissioning, the writing, the editing, and the people involved. It would also depend on whether the team was the First XI; on whether everyone could deliver. Tina says: "I vowed I would never go into business with partners who couldn't deliver. The Weinsteins are everything you could want. Fiscally prudent, fantastic promoters, and they've got great taste."

There's no greater risk than publishing new magazines. But if anyone can do it, you would have to assume that Tina Brown can. After all, she always has done before.



With Weinstein, left, and Ron Galotti, Brigitte Lacombe

# The last Nazi art scandal

Will the return of the looted art treasures of Europe, after 50 years, mark the final chapter of the Holocaust? By Adam LeBor

They have been called the last POWs, the paintings and sculptures that once graced the salons of pre-war Europe's Jewish bourgeoisie, from Berlin to Bucharest. While their owners vanished in the maelstrom of the Holocaust, their art collections were systematically looted by the Third Reich, a régime as rapacious as it was murderous. In 1945, the director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York estimated that the value of art-work plundered by the Nazis amounted to \$2.5bn.

Now, over five decades after the war's end, governments are launching a concerted drive to return looted art. At the end of this month, representatives of dozens of countries will meet in Washington DC at the Conference on Holocaust Era assets. Plundered art will be high on the agenda, as delegates try and piece together the parts of the jigsaw scattered all over the world, that makes up the art collections stolen and broken up.

There is much to discuss. A report released yesterday by the London-based Holocaust Educational Trust reveals how post-war Britain stonewalled attempts by wartime survivors to reclaim their artworks, and British officials even helped to confiscate art criminalised by Allied troops. The post-war government failed to impose safeguards of looted works of art passing through Britain, and cut off restitution claims after 30 June 1949. Holocaust survivors, or their heirs, who attempted to reclaim their artworks were refused, even though well-connected German aristocrats and British establishment figures such as Lord Rothermere all received their collections back.

The Washington Conference is the latest stage in an unprecedented world-wide bout of soul searching over the fate of the property of the Jews killed in the Holocaust, and of other victims of Nazism that began with the Swiss banks and the long-running battle to recover monies deposited in now dormant bank accounts. The wartime allies

that pressured the Swiss to open their books and admit the full extent of their economic collaboration with the Third Reich suddenly realised that their own hands were less than clean.

The international restitution campaign follows a conference earlier this year when 38 nations, led by the United States and including Britain, France and Germany, pledged to identify works of art looted by the Nazis, and return them. Now national museums, including British institutions, are setting up databases to determine the provenance of the works in their collections. Galleries could be forced to dismantle collections that have hung on their walls for decades, even if they believed they legitimately owned them.

Why is this happening now? A world-wide desire to finally close the last chapter of the Holocaust and the collapse of the Communist bloc have both spurred on the restitution drive. The raising of the former Iron Curtain allowed Holocaust survivors to finally claim their rightful assets, no longer fearing that their governments would confiscate anything that was returned.

Psychological factors also play a role, says Stephen Ward of the Holocaust Education Trust. "There is a sense that the wartime generation, both victims and those involved in looting, want to settle unfinished business while they are still alive."

Britain, too, has some unfinished wartime business. Enthusiasm for battling the Nazis did not make the peace-time transition to returning artworks stolen by the Germans to their rightful owners or heirs. Officials in the British-run zones of post-war Germany and Austria based their policies of restitution on the First World War principles of dealing with governments rather than individuals.

Meanwhile, Lord Rothermere managed to recover his collection of masterpieces from Hungary, and then, in 1947, a further 15 works in Munich. Even a conviction as a war criminal was not necessarily a barrier to compensation from Britain. In 1952, the arms manufac-



A US soldier examines part of Hermann Goering's looted art collection at the Nazi leader's country house, 'Karinhalde'.

Corbis-Bettmann

turer Alfred Krupp claimed compensation from Britain over art treasures taken from his villa in 1945.

By the early 1950s and the onset of the Cold War, Krupp, like many pre-war German industrialists and financiers of the Nazi party, had been judged by the west as more useful in helping rebuild West Germany, than serving out his time in prison.

British officials, fearing "political embarrassment", according to the HET report, even tried to recover some of the Krupp property for the man whose weapons had killed so many Allied troops. "The case histories preserved at the Public Record Office suggest the rules could be bent for the powerful and influential, even, apparently, the families of some former Nazis," the HET report details.

This appears to have included relatives of Heinrich Himmler, who, it seems, were allowed to retain some looted art. As he had died, his name was not on the list of war criminals whose property was automatically confiscated.

British art dealers and auction houses failed to take special care to check the provenance of art they handled after the war, the HET report adds. "For the trade, the only important question about a

work remained its authenticity – was it genuine?"

Sculptures, drawings, oils, watercolours, tens of thousands of works of art disappeared into the Third Reich's warehouses, and the homes of its leaders such as Hermann Goering. Whole museums, especially in the Soviet Union, were dismantled, boxed up and carried off. Private owners, especially Jews and Slavs, were sent to concentration camps, and their collections sent on to Berlin for the delectation of the Nazi leaders.

Paintings by artists like Cezanne and Van Gogh could have had for the picking as the Third Reich thundered its way across wartime Europe. France's museums offered the best bounty for the Nazis. Alfred Rosenberg, the supposed "Philosophical King" of the Third Reich, later hanged as a war criminal at Nuremberg, set up a special unit in order to plunder the country's chateaux and museums: the "Eisenstab Rosenberg".

In November 1940, Hermann

Goering, one of the most rapacious members of the Nazi leadership, who fancied himself as an art connoisseur, issued a secret order detailing how objects plundered from the Louvre would be disposed of.

They would be divided into three categories: for the Führer himself, for Goering's own collection and others to be sent to German museums.

Goering would travel across the Reich himself after his spotters located suitable pieces. Hitler would receive visits from dealers in plainer such as Maria Almás-Dietrich.

That she had given birth to an illegitimate daughter fathered by an Jew, and later married a Jewish Turk, did not seem to impede her trade with the Führer, and she sold 270 paintings.

Many of these last POWs have

found new homes in some of the world's most prestigious art museums. The Louvre, for example, has

about 2,000 works of art recovered

from the Nazis at the end of the war;

that have not been returned to their

owners or their rightful heirs. Those

2,000 pictures have been posted on

the Internet, at a site run by the

French Ministry of Culture

(<http://www.culture.fr/www.culture.fr>)

for potential claimants to peruse –

and several ownership claims have

been received.

About 100,000 works of art were

stolen from France by the Nazis, of

which 60,000 were returned. Over

45,000 were returned to their own

ers, many of which were museums.

But after 90,000 French Jews were killed in the Holocaust, many of them whole families, some could never be given back, even if the desire to return them had existed.

Which it often did not, according to declassified US Intelligence documents. Many art dealers made a tidy living out of buying up French Jews' collections on the cheap and selling them on to the Nazis.

The report of the US Art Looting Investigation Unit's final mission to Europe, in the summer of 1946, details French reluctance to pursue economic collaborators with the Nazis: "Despite the extensive documentation in French hands, some of it presented to them by this unit, the French have made disappointingly slow progress in the prosecution of their own collaborationist dealers, and there were many indicators this summer that most of the collaborationist dealers were continuing business as usual."

The US was a fruitful market for looted art, the report adds: "Many of these dealers had already re-established their contacts with dealers in the United States, and some of the objects acquired by looting and forced sale may have already been transferred to this country."

The Nuremberg trials classified

Nazi looting of art as a war-crime, and from 1944 Britain and the US agreed that they would find and seize all Nazi assets. But seizure of looted Nazi assets did not automatically mean they would be used for restitution for Nazi victims. During

1945 and 1946, items taken by the British from properties formerly owned by Heinrich Himmler were used to decorate British military offices in the British-occupied zone of France.

Now, decades later, the world's conscience has finally awoken. Some artworks will never be found, for many masterpieces languish in the cellars of Russian museums, while others are out of reach in the vaults of Swiss banks, or were listed in files in government archives that have long since been destroyed.

But this month in Washington DC, governments are being driven by morality however belated, instead of expediency.

Those paintings that survived Alois Miedl's 1944 convoy across the Spanish border might yet find their way home.

Adam LeBor's book, *Hitler's Secret Bankers: How Switzerland Profited from Nazi Genocide* is published by Simon and Schuster.

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# Pssst! Can you keep a secret?

These are the London shops that the fashion in-crowd doesn't want you to know about. Melanie Rickey opens her address book

**I**t was while leading a friend through the hodgepodge of stalls that make up Soho's Berwick Street market - first left, then along a dark alley-way, through a small doorway, along a tiny corridor, and then up rickety stairs to a loft containing Vexed Generation's streetwear - that I fully understood the nature of secret shopping.

As we arrived, we checked out the other two people who were "in on it". They looked at us. We knew, and they knew. What exactly the "knowing" was all about I have no idea, but it felt good. We looked around quietly (secret shops frequently induce unnecessary self-consciousness) and left empty-handed, because the winter stock hadn't arrived, and I was after one of their coats.

A few days later I found myself discussing the discovery aspect of my shopping trip, only to find that there's nothing quite like knowing about a secret shop. It's all in the exclusivity of the merchandise, personal service, and intimate environment (attributes department stores try to emulate), the latter being what the secret fashion shop provides best.

West London is home to more Secret Shop destinations than the whole of the capital. The most established of these is The Cross, a boutique crammed with high fashion and life-style goodies. The rest in the west are situated in and around Portobello Market. In SW3 there is Voyage (that requires a membership card to gain entry), in Covent Garden is Koi Samui, a boutique whose stock has fast become a blueprint for future trends, and off Bond Street is Angela Hale, a jewellery and trinket gallery par excellence. None of them qualify as "official" secrets any more because everyone in the know has discovered them, and passed them on.

On a day-long, London-wide quest to find secret shops, I came across six that deserved the title. In the west of town is The Jacksons. It is run by twin sisters, Louise and Joey, who have thrown their design expertise into a bohemian offering which is one-part Mexican eclectic and two-parts Notchic (for the uninitiated, that's Notting Hill Chic). Everything is for sale, from the artwork to the cow-hide carpet tiles from Mexico. It's the sort of place one would pop into to buy a pretty hair-clip, and leave with a sheepskin-covered pouffe, embroidered slippers, a fake-overnight bag (the current best-seller) and a matching sheepskin handbag and hat.

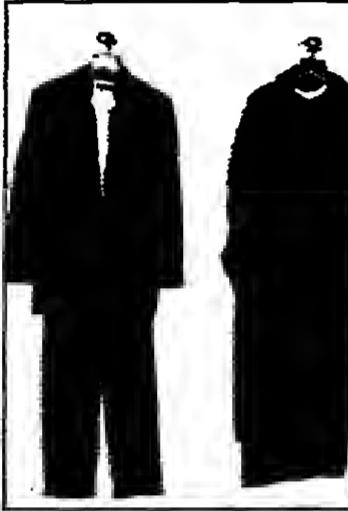
It opened in August and has already attracted a world-wide clientele. "We get all sorts in here," says



The Pineal Eye



Pippa Brooks, the ultimate shopgirl in her basement boudoir



Austerity at Wall



Joey(left) and sister Louise of Jacksons

Louise Jackson, "but what amazes me most is how far people are willing to travel to specific shops. Our mailing list covers many parts of England, and we've had customers calling in from Geneva, Monte Carlo and the Bahamas." Most hear about their store through the grapevine, so I'm surprised when the Jackson sisters say they haven't heard of my next destination, Wall, which is 10 minutes walk away.

When I get there, I understand why. Minimal isn't the word. Everything is black, grey or white. The music is probably from Tibet, and the staff pad about soundlessly. The owners, Judith and Bernan Balala-zaar, opened Wall one year ago with the view to selling a futuristic lifestyle idea. Their watchwords are proportion, quality and longevity, and the clothes for both sexes have all this, but lack the essential spark that make them ultra-desirable. Every-

thing is made from Pima cotton, alpaca or pashmina. There is a waiting list for their best-selling alpaca kimono house coat, and their trousers, tube skirts, shirts and cardigans are undoubtedly the secret ingredient to many a professional woman's (or man's) wardrobe. "We are not cheap," I am assured by Judith. "Last week we had Dustin Hoffman and his wife in." The Wall label is now available at Liberty where early reports suggest it is a hit, meaning that, for now at least, their secret is out.

But, there are other secrets that should remain so, simply for their oddness. In Maida Vale I discovered the Fashion Gallery, a tiny shop around the corner from a row of local amenities, which sells clothes and art. After ringing the doorbell I was buzzed in (a fussy door-policy here) to be met by a cacophony of colour. Trinkets, head-pieces, hand-

bags, hats and dresses in varying shades from pink to purple to moss green fight for space with neon-bright paintings. I came away thinking "so Julien MacDonald's knitwear can be wearable", while marvelling at the mental mixture of things from Stella Cadente's bright brocade jackets, Clements Ribeiro's colourful pieces, and party dresses by Elspeth Gibson. It's owned by ex-City girl Susan Muncey, who is every bit as colourful as her stock. "We get lots of local celebrities in here, and many women looking for Bar Mitzvah outfits."

Back in Soho things are a little more busy. Down in Shop (which is sometimes mistaken for a lap-dancing bar), Pippa Brooks, part-owner (with best friend Max Carie), party girl and singer hangs out. She's surveying the small boudoir currently packed full of New York party-girl clothes. Nowhere else (bar NYC) has

their unique and fun mixture of labels which include Tocca, Milk Fed by Sophia Coppola (daughter of Francis Ford), and new cult label Silas. A spin through the rails reveals Shop is in the process of launching its own label (Shop Girl), designed by Stevie Stewart, formerly of Bodymap. There's also a Shop Girl range of trinkets co-designed with jewellers Erikson Beamon which includes name necklaces (silver £49.95, gold £89.95), and hairclips.

"People come here on a discovery mission," says Brooks, "especially Japanese and Australian tourists, but the core of our customers is London girls."

Around the corner from Shop is The Pineal Eye, a new and experimental boutique of mostly unwearable clothes, run by a Japanese who simply adore fashion. Their stock-in-trade is catwalk show-pieces, and the work of young designers

including Jessica Ogden, (recycled quilts become jackets), Bruce (edgy; modern tailoring) and Noki, whose customised T-shirts are all the rage. They also sell mean-looking jewellery, cutting-edge magazines and the newest offering from Polaroid which takes instant pictures.

A look at the wall of photos in their polished metal store reveals designer Walter Van Beirendonck of WL&LT is a recent customer, as are fashion stylists and models.

At the end of my exhausting day I return to the Soho alley-way outside Vexed Generation, the label many believe to be the inspiration for Prada's new sportswear line, and whose designers are as secretive as priests. It's closed. "They're doing it up," a stall-holder told me. I call them up. "What are you up to?" I ask. "You'll have to wait and see," comes the reply. Some secrets are better left, I suppose.

**Shop**  
Russement, 4 Brewer Street, London W1  
0171-437 1239  
Shopgirl thermal vest by Damart - from £29.95  
Silas Thinsulate jacket - £95.  
Shopgirl jewellery by Erickson Beamon - from £10

**Vexed Generation**  
3 Berwick Street, London W1  
0171-287 6234  
Re-opens Saturday 21 November with launch of winter collection.  
Ninja fleeces - £90. Vexed parka - £210. Vexed bag - £70.

**The Fashion Gallery**  
8 Claremont Terrace, London W9  
0171-289 8220  
Elspeth Gibson dress - £250 -  
£300, Julien MacDonald handbag - £149.50. Betty Jackson sheepskin jacket, £585.

**Wall**  
1 Denbigh Road, London W11  
0171-242 4623  
Alpaca slippers - £89. Alpaca socks - £8. Kimono house coat - £269. long tube skirt, £139.

**The Jacksons**  
5 All Saints Road, London W11  
0171-752 8336  
Beaded flower Kirby grips - from £8. fake fur handbag - £160. cow hide carpet (3m x 3.5m approx) - £2,300. sheepskin handbag - £177.

**The Pineal Eye**  
49 Broadwick Street, London W1  
0171-434 2567  
Mini-Polaroid camera with film - £45, rings by Sarah Harmerne, Scott Wilson, Sean Leane - £25 - £250. Shelley Fox felted wool jacket - £170.

**Angela Hale**  
5 The Royal Arcade, Old Bond Street, London W1  
0171-495 1920  
Small Art Deco frames - from £45, crystal hair slides - £35, rose necklace - from £98. Angela Hale mail order catalogue, 0171-493 6203.

**The Cross**  
141 Portland Road, London, W11  
0171-727 6760  
Scented candles - £38. Nicola Tassie handmade pottery - from £18.50, Pashmina shawls - from £187.50.  
The Cross mail order catalogue (£2.50) from 0171-221 8616.

**Voyage**  
115 Fulham Road, London, SW3  
0171-823 9581  
Hand painted silk dress - £1,250, ribbon-edged cardigan - £495.

**Koh Samui**  
65 Monmouth Street, London WC2  
0171-210 4280  
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Why leave time travel to Doctor Who and Nicholas Lyndhurst? Playwrights have been doing it for years. By Paul Taylor

# Time is of the essence

**T**here are two things that the chattering classes know about Harold Pinter's 1978 play *Betrayal*. One is that it is based on the author's own affair with the journalist and television presenter Joan Bakewell. The other is that it dramatises the story of a wife's affair with her husband's best friend in reverse sequence - beginning two years after the liaison is over (and as the woman's marriage is breaking up) and ending with the party that started it.

Trevor Nunn's revival of the piece at the National, opening next week, provides a good opportunity to range *Betrayal* against other dramas that employ an artificial time scheme and to argue that Pinter's play finds the best moral and artistic justification for doing so.

When a dramatist allows an audience to view the present circumstances of his characters in the light of their future - a future made literally a forgone conclusion - it can all too often result in a kind of galleried voyeuristic pessimism. It's no wonder that Brecht had little truck with such temporal shufflings. And this may happen despite the playwright's express intentions.

The middle of JB Priestley's *Time and the Conways* famously flashes forward from 1919 to 1937 and back, from the end of one war to the prelude of another. As well as highlighting the fragility and poignancy of hope, Priestley wanted the structure of the play to reflect his consoling conviction that linear time is only an illusion. Each cross-sectional moment of our lives - including our younger untroubled selves - goes on existing forever in a four-dimensional landscape that we can only see a bit at a time. In practice, though, what makes the impact is the sneaky preview of those dwindled lives (glowing socialist Girtin girl shrunk to embittered mercenary school mistress) and the way we can trace the origins of such disappointment when the play returns to the earlier period.

A self-professed homage to Priestley, Alan Ayckbourn's 1993 play *Time of My Life*, has none of his hope but twice his ingenuity, using an elabo-

rate triple-time scheme in the service of a systematic, wilful negativity as it charts the decline of a large family business. All set (rather implausibly) in the same restaurant, its present-tense centrepiece is a fatal birthday party for the overbearing matriarch of this brood. The play cross-cuts between this awkward feast and parallel lunch scenes. The structure permits multiple ironies but the before-and-after scenes just supplement the depressing sense you've had from the start that the need for their mother's approval has ruined her sons' lives. When the father, making a toast at the end, talks of how we are usually too busy worrying about tomorrow or thinking about yesterday to identify moments of positive happiness, his words are undermined by all the yesterdays and tomorrows we have just seen.

The play comes across, in the main, as a cynical stunt. That's not a charge you could lay at the door of *Betrayal*. Here the structure feels neither in excess of the moral facts nor, though it might be said to constitute an enveloping betrayal, like a mean trick on the characters. Pinter has said that "when I realised the implications of the play, I knew there was only one way to go and that was backwards". Watching or reading it, I have always felt as if I was being steered along a poisoned stream until, in the final moment, the play takes us to its source.

This is the scene at the party where the husband Robert walks in on his wife Emma and Jerry, who has just declared his love for her alone in the bedroom. A vertiginous moment which a (possibly) drunken Jerry tries to cover up with courtly compliments to his best friend about Emma's beauty. Instead of rising to the challenge Robert clasps Jerry's shoulder, and in that gesture of reassuring affection, effectively betrays all three of them. The bond between the men, arguably more important to them than their relationship with Emma: the sense that Robert and Emma's marriage is sustained by the adulterous *menage-a-trois* - these suggestions crystallise in that second. In the other plays mentioned, the move back in time is a shift from experience to relative



Main picture: Imogen Stubbs, Anthony Calf and Douglas Hodge in Trevor Nunn's 'Betrayal'; above left 'Time of My Life'; above right 'Timeless'

innocence. Not so with *Betrayal*. Advertised as "looking the way Friends might do if Harold Pinter were on the writing team", David Greig's recent music-theatre piece *Timeless* took a self-conscious leaf out of *Betrayal*'s book. Focusing on four Scottish twentysomethings, it dramatises their meetings at a favourite cafe-bar. The temporal

leap-back is very *Betrayal*-like: we see the foursome on the brink of an epiphany experience on a beach at dawn - a timeless moment of pure joy which we already know will haunt them for the rest of their lives.

The point, though, is that in Greig's timeshifts, that moment stands unsullied. I'm not sure that the equivalent memory in *Betrayal*

is compelling for many reasons, not just because it allows the audience, with its privileged information, to focus attention on the creepy mechanics of deceit rather than on the convolutions of plot. Sending the characters on a backwards journey that never reaches a state of unambiguous innocence, it leaves them at the

point where, horrifically, they will have to start the whole desolating business again. The form of this play powerfully brings to mind two lines of TS Eliot: "After such knowledge what forgiveness?" and "In my beginning is my end".

'Betrayal' is previewing at the National Theatre (0171-452 3000)

## ON THE FRINGE

DOMINIC CAVENDISH

JUST WHEN Conor McPherson's *The Weir* seemed to be the last word to put theatre along comes Jack Shepherd's mighty impressive *Half Moon* at the Southwark Playhouse. Although boasting a more densely populated catchment area than McPherson's Leitrim watering hole, this Fitzrovia boozier is equally forlorn and its clientele just as haunted, though they are in the grip of ideological debate rather than ghost stories.

The play is set in 1982: Simon Doe's wonderful replica saloon instantly suggests a world apart. The day's news - the opening engagements of the Falklands War - steals in by word of mouth, gradually proving a bone of contention between the raddled bohemians who gather following the funeral of their modernist painter chum, Quentin.

Shepherd's dialogue transforms the casual skirmishes of bar-room banter into a complex war of words punctuated by ugly brawls. He captures, with comic brio, the mutual antipathies of washed-up contemporaries Eric and Ray who unleash torrents of impertinence under the combined influence of age and alcohol - but who then find themselves holding uneasy truces when their lifestyle is challenged by a rebarbative Glaswegian and a young artist, Nick.

The latter's pugnacious defence of the war against Argentina is bound up with his contempt for the high-mindedness he ascribes to old-guard

creative types. His retort, "tuck principles", to the pacifist Eric rings out like a pronouncement on behalf of Thatcherite Britain but Shepherd, who directs, never allows our sympathies to rest with any one party for long.

Jackie Everett is a magnificently sozzled Elvira (a sort of bobo Dot Cotton), Ralph Watson's Ray resembles a Peter Cook might-have-been and Liam Hourican makes a forceful debut as the outgrown Nick.

The fringe also offers two wildly different, but worthwhile new works. *Fourteen Songs, Two Weddings and a Funeral*, Tamasha's music-filled adaptation of a Bollywood blockbuster, is so exaggeratedly faithful, it allows a tongue-in-cheek secondary reading which meshes neatly with the story's latent critique of arranged marriages. At the ICA every weekend this month, Julian Maynard Smith and Susannah Hart of Station House Opera are performing their brilliant *Roadmetal, Sweetbread*. Mimed exchanges are witty counterpointed by video-projected alter-egos as they examine the constraints of coupledom from every angle in one hour. It looks viciously modern, but the subtext is reassuringly old hat: all's fair in love and war.

*Half Moon*, Southwark Playhouse, SE1 (0171-820 3494) to 5 Dec; Tamasha, Lyric Studio, W6 (0181-741 8701) to 5 Dec; *Roadmetal, Sweetbread*, ICA, SW1 (0171-930 3647).

## You can't see the wood for the trees

THE DONMAR's latest show presents Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood and host of other fairy-tale characters but it's no pantomime. Instead, it's a smart revival of Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine's musical morality tale. This theatre recently acquired a reputation for star casting with Nicole Kidman but the star of John Crowley's production is not an actor, but his brother, the designer Bob Crowley.

With the audience on three sides, this is not an easy space for designers but Crowley casts a hugely evocative spell. The original Broadway production was smothered beneath a glutinously sweet design but Crowley resists the temptation. His Hansel and Gretel-style furniture and the beautiful backcloth suggest classic children's illustrations but his

palette is richer, darker and stronger.

As the characters set off into the woods in search of their wishes, the backdrop lifts to reveal a dense, hush forest of evergreens rising up to a tiny castle. Moodily lit by Paul Pyant, it is all richly redolent of Grimm's fairytale, highly appropriate as not everything ends as happily ever after as the hopeful and sprightly comic first half promises. Jack climbs his beanstalk, Cinderella marries her prince and a baker and his wife have a child having followed the orders of a witch.

But terror strikes at the opening of Act 2. An unseen, vengeful and highly metaphorical giant comes calling, bringing death and destruction. The rest of the action is somewhat akin to a disaster movie. Faced with stark choices of love, life

and death, who will survive? Sondheim provides his character with some of his most heartfelt music, climaxing with the beautiful quartet "No-one is Alone".

This is, in every sense, a chamber version.

The musical director Mark Warman has re-

orchestrated the piece for nine

players to wondrous effect,

bringing out the colours of

the score with aching solo cello

lines and translucent wood-

wind wiring. His tempi tend to

be slow which sometimes robes

the action of drive and mo-

mentum but it means that for

once you bear virtually every

single word of the telling lyrics.



'Into the Woods': occasionally needs more energy

John Crowley's direction is similarly detailed, encouraging a very droll wit from his company, notably Clare Burt's stylish witch. Yet occasionally the single word of the prince, the

baker's wife sings of a life full of tiny moments, before realising that if life were made of moments, then you'd never know you had one". That's a peculiarly apt description for a production whose intimacy makes you feel as if you are watching a well-acted play with music rather than being treated to a full-blown musical.

Audiences at Sondheim's

Company reacted with

shocked delight to a musical

which challenged them intel-

lectually. *Into the Woods* is not

quite in the same league but at

its best, it vividly demonstrates that musicals need not be for

children or the childish.

To 14 Feb (0171-369 1732)

DAVID BENEDICT

A version of this review ap-

peared in later editions of yes-

terday's paper

## A fairy-tale of polished complexity

MANCHESTER HAS developed a good line in festivals. Tippett, along with Debussy, was fêted in a special concert series, while Lutoslawski, Górecki and Dutilleux also came to Manchester to hear their music in concerts (including six British premières), workshops and discussions.

The opening event was a staging of one of Henze's children's operas, *Policino*, and, true to fairy-tale form, it was a magical evening, with singers and instrumental ensemble (including recorders, crumhorns, mouth organ and harmonium) of local schoolchildren and RNCM students conducted with authority by Garry Walker. Continuing the theatrical theme, the unavoidable with Henze, the RNCM New Ensemble brought an extraordinary

feats of stamina in its relentless virtuosity, has been made harder still by the composer's fully composed revision of all the formerly random, aleatoric passages. In this *Symphony*, in which, as the composer's words, "a conflict is depicted", Henze's loyalty to classical form and forces is challenged by his use of period political messages. Each idea, from the Vietnamese freedom song, "Stars in the Night", Theodorakis's "Song to Freedom" and lines from the Cuban Miguel Barnet's *Proof Corrections*, to exhilarating Cuban dance rhythms, is distinctively portrayed, whether on banjo, guitar and alto flute, or haunting amplified violin.

After its première in 1952, Henze's *Piano Concerto No. 1* was all but forgotten. Rediscovered and dusted down, it received its first British performance in the closing concert, given by the BBC Philharmonic under Ingo Metzmacher. It was dispatched brilliantly, especially in the biting rhythms, by Peter Donohoe, though Henze, hearing the work for the first time in nearly 50 years, was inscrutable. On this airing, it sounded curiously restricted, as if it hadn't quite blossomed fully. Or perhaps, like the orchestra, its effect was lessened by the limitations of the RNCM Concert Hall.

Even without following Henze's clues to the various

direct links between his *Sym-*

*phony No. 8* (1992-3) and Shakes-

peare's *A Midsummer Night's*

*Dream*, it was impossible not to be seduced by the orchestral palette from which he draws Shakespeare's characters and their comic and touching en-

counters, especially in the final, exquisite adagio, "If we shad-

ows have offended...", inspiring

extremely polished playing

from strings and woodwind.

In its textbook example of

Henze's accessible yet often

complex style, mixture of for-

mality and lyricism, wide-rang-

ing material and instrumental

theatricality, the Eighth Sym-

phony seemed to sum up the

whole festival.

LYNN WALKER

*what's it to us?*

Your family may have lived in the same house since the beginning of the century, but it's all for nothing if the lease is about to run out. By Karen Woolfson

## The best laid plans can turn to rubble

I want a fair and simpler process. I think the leasehold system should go. When you buy a house or flat, you should be buying the ground it stands on, the two parts of the property can't be separated. Once you buy the property should be yours." So says Glynys Bridges, who is battling to retain the home in South Wales that her family has lived in since the beginning of this century.

Ms Bridges' mother died in June this year. It was only when she was going through the papers after her mother's death that she discovered the lease on the family home is due to expire in September next year. "I'm angry with the law as it stands. I wasn't living in the house and you can't go to a Leasehold Valuation Tribunal if you have not been a resident for the three years immediately preceding the application."

Her grandfather first moved into the house in 1909 and rented the property from the leaseholder until he passed away in 1946. Her mother then took over the rent until deciding to buy the family home in 1963. It had 36 years left on the lease and she did not seek an extension or purchase the freehold.

Ms Bridges says: "Many older people don't understand the leasehold system, and the whole notion of dealing with solicitors is not something they would do. My mother never went out to work and going to a solicitor wasn't in her or my father's domain before he passed away. She didn't understand the complexities of freehold and thought that me and my sister would receive the family home on her death."

She has approached the freeholder in an attempt to buy the property and has been quoted the sum of £27,500 which is more than the average small terraced house in this depressed area is selling for at present, according to her viewer.

"If I had lived in the house in five out of the past 10 years, I could have applied to go through the enfranchisement process, but I haven't. I think my mother would have acted if she had been alerted to how the freehold system works and if the process was simpler and cheaper to carry out. My mother was a frail old woman in her last few years and wasn't able to do anything that took much effort."

Ms Bridges would buy the house if it was sold for what she believes is a "reasonable sum of money", taking into account that her parents put much of their savings into the property. She wants the Government to put a stop to people buying up freeholds, collecting ground rent and then waiting for a lease to expire so they can "scoop the pool". But it is uncertain whether the Government's heralded overhaul of the leasehold system will manage to tackle this type of problem in the short term.

However, Hilary Armstrong, the Minister for Housing, told a conference held by the Association of Residential Managing Agents a few days ago that the



Failing to keep an eye on your leasehold can lead to dire consequences for your home

Raymonds

overall objective of leasehold reform "is to reap the full benefits of owner occupation and, individually or collectively, to have control over the way in which their homes are managed."

Ms Armstrong said one key purpose is to make it easier for leaseholders to buy the freehold of their homes: "The existing eligibility rules for enfranchisement are hard to understand and can be difficult to meet in the case of flats. The whole procedure gives landlords who have ready access to professional advice an unfair advantage. The basis for determining the price is complex and open to argument. This leads to uncertainty for prospective purchasers over the eventual cost which can often deter leaseholders from getting involved in the enfranchisement process."

She stressed that the Government remains committed to introducing a new form of tenure called "commonhold," giving leaseholders the freehold of the property on which their flat stands. However, Ms Armstrong added that "this is an ideal long-term goal" and later went on to say that commonhold would initially be available to new developments but that the Government would also be looking at how leaseholders could convert to commonhold status.

Leaseholders may also be given the

right to manage their own block without the need to prove neglect by the existing management. She added that the Government is "considering whether there should be some form of control over managing agents and landlords who manage their own properties". The latter is likely to be the key to the whole process, because the danger, as some newly enfranchised leaseholders have found, is that they find themselves with an unscrupulous board of leasehold directors running the newly formed freehold company.

This new breed of "leasehold landlords" may inflate service charges for their own gain, present service charge accounts in a misleading fashion and fail to provide the full set of accounts leaseholders or Companies House requires under legislation.

They may also fail to provide access to the "full and complete set of invoices and receipts" for every item of expenditure on the service charge accounts, which can run into thousands of pounds. In other cases, they fail to carry out the legal procedure for consultation over building works and refuse to hold annual general meetings.

The Government may introduce strict regulation which applies in the same way to newly enfranchised "leasehold landlords" and any other type of landlord or managing agent in an effort to clamp down on the unscrupulous. But in order to

work, the regulator needs power, not only to impose fines and strike people off a register, so that they can no longer operate, but also the power to imprison the worst offenders. Legislation must, at the same time, be strengthened to eliminate as much interpretation as possible, ensure full disclosure of every penny spent and create transparency of information.

Karen Woolfson welcomes comments for her column. Write to: Homebattle, c/o Nic Cucciti, Personal Finance section, *The Independent*, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL. She regrets she is unable to reply personally to all letters.

## THE FIXERS



TIM COCKERILL

## Have trust in trusts

I TOOK a call from a potential client last week, Mr McNish. A few weeks previously he had asked for some investment recommendations. He had £30,000 and wanted income. The call was to query these recommendations which he had received. "What I don't understand," he began, "is that you have suggested a portfolio of UK unit trusts with a gross income of 3.5 per cent. But where is the benefit in that if I can get 7 per cent in the building society?"

A perfectly reasonable question, before attempting to answer it, I wanted to check my facts. "You wanted income and you agreed that your need was about £1,000 pa but we also discussed inflation protection, right? You also said that you would have no call on the capital for at least five years."

"Yes, I want the income. I probably won't want the capital at all, but I don't want to lock it away for more than five years."

"We also agreed to assume inflation at 3 per cent per annum, that interest rates are more likely to fall than rise and that you were not concerned about short-term fluctuation of capital values?"

"That is true, but I still cannot see any advantage in accepting an income of half what I could get from the building society."

"OK," I said, "let me explain."

First, let us work on the basis that interest rates do not fall over the next five years. Next, good-quality UK equity income unit trusts have a history of increasing both income and capital at a rate greater than inflation, but let us assume that over the next five years they only grow at 5 per cent. Do these seem reasonable assumptions, favouring, if anything, the building society?"

"Yes, that seems fair enough."

"Good. So, the building society will produce £2,100 pa that is £10,500 over the five years. At the five year point, because of inflation, the buying power of the £30,000 will have fallen to about £22,762. Now, in the first year, the equity portfolio will produce only £1,050 income but remember it is growing at 5 per cent pa so the total income over the period should be around £5,800, that's about £4,700 less than the building society. But, remember, the capital has grown at 5 per cent pa and stands at around £28,300 after five years. So, if we add the income and capital gain, we have £14,100 which is £3,600, or around 34 per cent, more than the building society.

et. What's more, by year five the UK equity income unit trust portfolio should be producing an income of £1,275 pa that's over 21 per cent higher than when first invested and equates to an income on £30,000 of 4.25 per cent gross."

"Oh yes," he said. "I am beginning to see what you mean."

"There are no guarantees with the UK equity income unit trust portfolio, though we have assumed lower returns than have been the case historically. On the other hand, let's not forget that building society returns seem more likely to fall and we've assumed they'll be constant."

Mr McNish hesitated. "But isn't there a risk of the UK equity income unit trusts falling in value?"

"At some point, such falls are inevitable," I replied. "but the beauty of such funds is that falling values do not tend to result in falling income. As long as the end result is satisfactory, do fluctuating capital values matter much?"

"Well no, I suppose not. Yes, I see what you are getting at. The interest rate from the building society may look the best bet initially, but over time, the overall result is likely to be better with the UK equity income unit trusts."

"Exactly. Though if you'd needed the higher income from day one, we would have had to look at other options. We have a booklet called *'Defending Your Income'*. Why don't I put a copy in the post before you make your final decision?"

I sent the booklet; Mr McNish became a client this morning.

A free copy of *'Defending Your Income'* is available from Whitechurch Securities Limited. Call 0800 374423

## Give Elvis some credit

WHEN LAURISSA Thompson read that Bank of Scotland had issued an Elvis Presley credit card, she not only applied for one on her own behalf but for her boyfriend, too.

"I had been thinking of getting a credit card and when I saw the Elvis card I thought it would be fun. I also applied for one for my boyfriend, Mark John, as he likes Elvis and does a good version of *Devil in Disguise* on karaoke nights at the local pub," says 25-year-old Laurissa, of Littlebourne, in Kent.

The Elvis card is just one of more than 1,500 affinity cards in issue. These credit cards work just like any other credit card, except every time you use it, the card issuer makes a donation to the affinity group. An affinity group is any organised group where the members have a common interest. It can be a charity, a fan club, a leisure group, sports club, professional organisation or trade union.

The amount donated on these cards varies. But typically for every £100 you spend on your card, a 25p donation is made, and in some cases more. On top of this, if you pay an annual fee on your card, this will go to the affinity group. But usually there is no annual fee on the card and instead the card issuer will contribute between £2.50 and £10 to the affinity group when you take out the card.

This may not sound much, but it can soon mount up. The average amount spent on a credit card each year is more than £1,500. So if your card issuer donates 25p for every £100 you spend, this means an annual donation of £3.75 plus any initial or annual fee on the card.

Groups such as the RSPCA and the Open University have raised more than £100,000. Other groups which have a card include Liverpool Football Club, Harley Davidson Club, National Childbirth Trust, Star Trek, Labour Party, National Chrysanthemum Society, Royal Yacht-

Affinity cards are a cost-free way to donate.

By Abigail Montrose



Shopping with The King

ing Association, The Samaritans and Brooke Hospital for Animals.

An affinity card enables the cardholder to support their chosen group in more ways than one, and at no expense to themselves. Not only does the group receive money from the card issuer every time the cardholder uses the card, but it also receives publicity and can be a talking point when you are out shopping with the card. In terms of cost, card issuers tend to charge the same rates of interest on affinity cards as on their other credit cards, says Alex Steven, director of affinities at Bank of Scotland.

"These are competitive products although they are not preferential. They are not necessarily the cheapest credit cards around, but they are competitive," he says.

So if the rates are the same as on a standard credit card and the card issuers

have more expenses as they have to make the donations, what is it for them? The answer is the possibility of picking up new business. Not only might they attract new customers, but as most affinity card issuers are banks, they also might be able to offer these people more than just a credit card.

The major issuers of affinity cards are Bank of Scotland, Beneficial Bank, the Co-operative Bank, MBNA, Midland Bank and Royal Bank of Scotland.

When the Bank of Scotland decided back in 1988 to move into the affinity group market it began by approaching likely groups and offering them a card. Nowadays, it is just as likely to be approached by a prospective group as it is to be making the initial contact.

In order to apply for its own card, the group needs to be properly set up and is likely to have articles of association. The bank will want the group to have a database of at least 15,000 members to make it worth its while.

Once the group has been issued with its own credit card, Bank of Scotland may then look at other products such as personal loans and instant access savings accounts which it thinks the members may be interested in. But it will only approach the members about these if the group endorses the products and they are then branded to the affinity group.

As well as being a good way to attract new customers, affinity cards also tend to bring in good customers, says Mr Steven.

"These groups tend to have members who have proven they are good customers and are keen to be associated with the organisation they are members of," he says.

But before you cut up your old credit card, choose an affinity card, apply and make sure your application is accepted. Then see how much credit you are being offered, as it may not be as high as the limit your existing card issuer is prepared to offer you.

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# It doesn't have to hurt

**Staff and bosses find them painful, but an appraisal can be tolerable.**  
By Kate Hilpern

**A**lice Speight was horrified when she entered her boss's office for her latest annual performance appraisal. "To be honest, I hate doing these damn things and I don't really know how they work. Do you?" said the manager to his legal secretary from Buckinghamshire.

Alice represents a third of the employees who recently responded to an Institute of Personnel and Development (IPD) survey by claiming their bosses treated appraisals as a "bureaucratic chore". Indeed, the same survey showed that 15 per cent of bosses would rather visit the dentist than carry out an appraisal.

"Appraisal systems have become so diverse during the last few years," says Angela Edward, IPD's policy advisor. "The result is that a great many managers - as well as their staff - don't really know how to make the most out of them. And for the appraisal, that can mean losing out on pay, promotions and training."

At their simplest, performance appraisals enable employees to plan and control their work better, to learn from their mistakes and profit from their successes. "But even if managers don't put every effort into achieving this, there's a great deal appraisers can do to help themselves," says Max A Egger, management psychologist and author of *The Managing Your Appraisal Pocketbook*.

The first thing to do, for example, is to request a preliminary discussion about what is going to be assessed and what the results will be. What kind of questions will you be asked? Will you need to produce any paperwork? Will the appraisal identify training needs or is it a chance to bargain for an increase in pay?

In fact, claims the Industrial Society, the Nineties have witnessed a clear trend away from connections between appraisals and pay. A recent study reveals that of the 77 per cent of British companies that have a formal appraisal system in place, almost half claim there is no link to money. Furthermore, steps have been taken in many organisations to ensure that appraisals have nothing to do with past performance. Instead, they only focus on the future of the staff member in terms of development needs.

"These are things the appraisee must know in order to prepare."



It seems that appraisals have everything to do with how well you get on with your boss, not your job skills

says Debra Allcock, the Industrial Society's head of campaigning.

According to Ms Allcock, secretarial staff are at a particular advantage when it comes to getting the best from their appraisals. "Most appraisals occur annually," she says. "But throughout the year, there should really be one-to-one's, mini-appraisals ensuring that no progress is missed. Since secretaries are usually in charge of their manager's diary, they can just book in a half-hour slot once a month or so."

Ms Allcock says that secretaries should keep a file on themselves, to keep track of their own progress. "Don't wait until the one-to-one interview to write down your achievements. If someone writes you a note to thank you for something, pop it in a file. If something went really well due to your expertise, write it down and add that too. This file will undoubtedly effect your future because even untrained managers will feel it is a problem if they have to record it."

"In fact, the more untrained they are, the more frightened they may be of messing up and consequently the

more likely they may be to record whatever you say or give them."

June Short, a Hertfordshire-based PA, adds that the close relationship between secretaries and managers can be of enormous benefit. "In every appraisal I've had, I've always asked the boss what I could do to improve our relationship. Without fail, it leads them into asking me the same question back."

If there is one problem that Ms Short hasn't found so easy to overcome, it is subjectivity. Almost a third of the IPD's survey respondents agreed that appraisal ratings have everything to do with how much your boss likes you and nothing to do with how well you do the job. But Angela Edward claims there is a solution.

"Insist on objectivity. If there are complaints about your work or if you come fairly low on the appraisal scale system, ask why and demand examples. Was that late report because you

were incompetent, or did your manager omit to record the fact that you were given instructions to amend the whole thing at 10pm the night before it was due? Is it fair to say your time-keeping is bad, or are you given so many chores outside the office that you simply can't be in the office from 9-5? Discuss these details at length and make sure they are recorded."

One way in which companies such as Sony and The Body Shop have attempted to conquer the problem of subjectivity is through the introduction of 360-degree appraisals - in which information about your performance is collated from as many sources as possible.

Your team members, your customers and your subordinates may all be asked to contribute. Sometimes called multi-sourced feedback, it has only been introduced at secretarial level during the past few months but it is quickly catching on.

For under the new data protection bill, all employees will be legally entitled to see every word, which can only act in their favour.

## When it rains, pour some pints



### THE TEMP

because it looks so frightening. It's called The Cedars, but everyone refers to it as The Seedy.

That Old Pub smells us as I take in our surroundings. Amminster on the floor; worn "tapestry" on the settles; ancient pinball machine in one corner and dozens and dozens of faded towelline beer mats nailed to the walls. And around the bar, a crowd, all male, mostly silent, some offering advice, all oblivious to us.

The focus of attention is a woman behind the bar whose band is wrapped in a glass cloth. She catches my eye. "Are you okay?" I say. She grimaces. "I was cutting a lemon and the knife slipped," she says.

"Hah, lemon," says one of the blokes in the crowd helpfully. "Shut up, Mike," she says. "I've called John and an ambulance. You'll get your drink in 20 minutes."

"What?" says Mike. "I've got an empty glass here." "Well, I can't do anything about it," she says, and a lightbulb goes off in my head. "I used to work in a bar," I say. "Would you like me to take over?" She looks astonished, then relieved.

"Would you?" "Go on," says another voice.

Mike wants a pint of lager. The first pint comes out all froth. Then I

remember the tipping trick,

and it all starts flooding back. By the time John arrives, just after the ambulance, I'm running around with my big barmal smile on. Ben propped on a stool with a free drink and a packet of pork scratchings, and everyone else saying "Give us our usual, love" as though I've been there all my life.

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NEW FILMS

BLADE (18)

Director: Stephen Norrington  
Starring: Wesley Snipes, Stephen Dorff  
A techno soundtrack bumps and grinds behind this monotonous arcade-game thriller about a New York vampire-killer tackling a power-crazed new bloodsucker. *Noise* and martial-arts action mask its tiny pedigree. West End: *Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

DESTINY (AL MASSIR - LE DESTIN) (NC)

Director: Youssef Chahine  
Starring: Nour El Cherif  
Chahine's flamboyant period fancy spins the yarn of a liberal sage and his battles with the rigid social order at large in medieval Spain. An implicit critique of Islamic oppression, *Destiny* takes wing with a burst of traditional dance and deep-colour visuals. West End: *ICA Cinema*

FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (18)

Director: Terry Gilliam  
Starring: Johnny Depp, Benicio Del Toro  
Gilliam's adaptation tilts at Ralph Steadman cartoonery for its tale of a drug-fuelled journalistic assignment. Incident, caricature and lurid Seventies fashions are substituted for plot and character, and the film soon descends into narcotic lunacy. The one stand-out is Johnny Depp, who brings Hunter S Thompson to bald-headed, pigeon-toed life. West End: *ABC Baker Street, Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Rio Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket*

FEIRE (15)

Director: Deepa Mehta  
Starring: Shabana Azmi, Javedi Jaffer, Nandita Das  
Mehta's Indian-Canadian co-production mounts a vibrant, and at times potent, attack on the Indian family set-up, with its tale of a fractious New Delhi brood. Strong ensemble playing riffs nicely on Mehta's taboo-bucking script. West End: *Curzon Soho*

HENRY POOL (18)

Director: Hal Hartley  
Starring: James Urbaniak, Parker Posey  
See *The Independent Recommends*, right. West End: *Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Renoir, Richmond Filmhouse, Ritzy Cinema*

HOPE FLOATS (PG)

Director: Forest Whitaker  
Starring: Sandra Bullock  
Spoonsfuls of sugar all round in Whitaker's romantic drama: a winsome piece that turns a loving eye on Sandra Bullock as a down-in-the-dumps ex-beauty queen. Cue Gina Rowlands as a feisty mum, Harry Connick Jr as a bawful handyman and acre upon acre of bumper-sticker wisdom. West End: *ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

INSOMNIA (18)

Director: Erik Skjoldbjerg  
Starring: Stellan Skarsgård  
Dubbed a "film blanc" by its creator, *Insomnia* transplants noir stylings to the landscape of summertime Norway. Its cop hero (Skarsgård) drifts into mental meltdown as he probes a teenager's murder; it's his controlled performance that galvanises this otherwise underpowered thriller. West End: *Metro*

THE KNOWLEDGE OF HEALING (NC)

Director: Franz Reiche  
Starring: Tenzin Choedak  
Reiche's documentary serves up a crash course in Tibetan medicine. The Dalai Lama and his personal doctor make for reliable sources, but the whole thing proves too info-heavy and indigestible. West End: *Reino*

LEFT LUGGAGE (PG)

Director: Jeroen Krabbé  
Starring: Isabella Rossellini, Maximilian Schell  
Krabbé's first stab as a director results in an uncertain soap opera, focusing on the ebb and flows within a Hasidic family in 1970s Holland. Fitful as drama, the film comes to life as a showcase for its high-profile performers (Topol, Schell, Rossellini). Krabbé plus rising star Laura Fraser. West End: *ABC Panton Street, Curzon Mayfair, Screen on the Hill*

THE ODD COUPLE (15)

Director: Michael Deutch  
Starring: Walter Matthau, Jack Lemmon  
The follow-up to Neil Simon's Sixties flat-share favourite dispatches its mismatched couple off to a wedding and then strands them in the desert. From this set-up come all manner of comedy set pieces. The two stars work hard to keep it upright. West End: *Plaza*

Xan Brooks  
CINEMA  
WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET  
(0870-902418) ♦ Baker Street Elizabeth, 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.35pm

ABC PANTON STREET  
(0870-902 0403) ♦ Piccadilly Circus, *The Last Days of Disco* 1.10pm, 4.00pm, 6.20pm *Left Luggage* 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm *A Perfect Murder* 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm *Re Me Va Plus* 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm

ABC PICCADILLY  
(0171-287 4322) (from 1pm) ♦ Piccadilly Circus, *Circus The Big Lebowski* 1.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm *I Want You* 3.50pm, 8.30pm *Prisoners* 2.20pm, 5.45pm, 8.05pm

ABC SHAFESBURY AVENUE  
(0870-902 0402) ♦ Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road, *The Governess* 2.10pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm *Hope Floats* 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE  
(0870-902 0403) ♦ Leicester Square Le Bossu 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm *Hana-Bi* 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm *Love is the Devil* 1.20pm, 3.15pm, 5.10pm, 7.05pm, 9pm *La Vie Revers des Anges* 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD  
(0870-902 0414) ♦ Tottenham Court Road, *Antz* 1.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.40pm, 9.45pm *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Release) 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm *My Name is Joe* 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm

ABCON CAMDEN TOWN  
(0870-050007) ♦ Camden Town, *Antz* 2.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.00pm, 6.55pm, 9.20pm *Blade II* 12noon, 3pm, 4.45pm, 8.25pm *Elizabeth* 1.10pm, 6.30pm *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Release) 1.25pm, 3.05pm, 5.55pm, 8.35pm *Snake Eyes* 11.45am, 2pm, 4.25pm, 6.45pm, 9.05pm *The Truman Show* 3.55pm, 8.55pm

ODEON HAYMARKET  
(0900-050007) ♦ Piccadilly Circus Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5pm, 7.45pm

ODEON KENSINGTON  
(0870-050007) ♦ High Street Kensington, *Antz* 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm *Blade II* 3.35pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm *Elizabeth* 1.10pm, 6.30pm *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Release) 12.15pm, 3.05pm, 5.55pm, 8.35pm *Snake Eyes* 11.45am, 2pm, 4.25pm, 6.45pm, 9.05pm *The Truman Show* 3.55pm, 8.55pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH  
(0870-050007) ♦ Marble Arch, *Antz* 1.20pm, 2.20pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm *Blade II* 3.35pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm *Elizabeth* 1.10pm, 6.30pm *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Release) 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm, 9.10pm *Hope Floats* 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 5.45pm, 8.55pm *Snake Eyes* 11.45am, 2pm, 4.25pm, 6.45pm, 9.05pm *The Truman Show* 3.55pm, 8.55pm

ODEON MEZZANINE  
(0870-050007) ♦ Leicester Square, *Antz* 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm *Elizabeth* 1.10pm, 6.30pm *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Release) 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.35pm *Hope Floats* 12.30pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm *Snake Eyes* 12.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE  
(0870-050007) ♦ Swiss Cottage, *Antz* 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.20pm *Elizabeth* 1.10pm, 6.30pm *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Release) 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.35pm *Hope Floats* 12.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm

ODEON:whiteleys  
(0990-888990) ♦ Whiteleys, *Antz* 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm *Elizabeth* 1.10pm, 6.30pm *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Release) 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.35pm *Hope Floats* 12.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm

ODEON:whiteleys  
(0990-888990) ♦ Whiteleys, *Antz* 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm *Elizabeth* 1.10pm, 6.30pm *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Release) 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.35pm *Hope Floats* 12.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm

ODEON:whiteleys  
(0990-888990) ♦ Whiteleys, *Antz* 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm *Elizabeth* 1.10pm, 6.30pm *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Release) 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.35pm *Hope Floats* 12.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm

ODEON:whiteleys  
(0990-888990) ♦ Whiteleys, *Antz* 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm *Elizabeth* 1.10pm, 6.30pm *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Release) 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.35pm *Hope Floats* 12.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm

ODEON:whiteleys  
(0990-888990) ♦ Whiteleys, *Antz* 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm *Elizabeth* 1.10pm, 6.30pm *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Release) 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.35pm *Hope Floats* 12.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm

ODEON:whiteleys  
(0990-888990) ♦ Whiteleys, *Antz* 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm *Elizabeth* 1.10pm, 6.30pm *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Release) 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.35pm *Hope Floats* 12.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm

ODEON:whiteleys  
(0990-888990) ♦ Whiteleys, *Antz* 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm *Elizabeth* 1.10pm, 6.30pm *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Release) 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.35pm *Hope Floats* 12.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm

ODEON:whiteleys  
(0990-888990) ♦ Whiteleys, *Antz* 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm *Elizabeth* 1.10pm, 6.30pm *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Release) 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.35pm *Hope Floats* 12.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm

ODEON:whiteleys  
(0990-888990) ♦ Whiteleys, *Antz* 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm *Elizabeth* 1.10pm, 6.30pm *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Release) 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.35pm *Hope Floats* 12.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm

ODEON:whiteleys  
(0990-888990) ♦ Whiteleys, *Antz* 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm *Elizabeth* 1.10pm, 6.30pm *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Release) 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.35pm *Hope Floats* 12.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm

ODEON:whiteleys  
(0990-888990) ♦ Whiteleys, *Antz* 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm *Elizabeth* 1.10pm, 6.30pm *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Release) 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.35pm *Hope Floats* 12.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm

ODEON:whiteleys  
(0990-888990) ♦ Whiteleys, *Antz* 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm *Elizabeth* 1.10pm, 6.30pm *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Release) 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.35pm *Hope Floats* 12.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm

ODEON:whiteleys  
(0990-888990) ♦ Whiteleys, *Antz* 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm *Elizabeth* 1.10pm, 6.30pm *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Release) 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.35pm *Hope Floats* 12.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm

ODEON:whiteleys  
(0990-888990) ♦ Whiteleys, *Antz* 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm *Elizabeth* 1.10pm, 6.30pm *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Release) 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.35pm *Hope Floats* 12.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm

ODEON:whiteleys  
(0990-888990) ♦ Whiteleys, *Antz* 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm *Elizabeth* 1.10pm, 6.30pm *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Release) 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.35pm *Hope Floats* 12.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm

ODEON:whiteleys  
(0990-888990) ♦ Whiteleys, *Antz* 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm *Elizabeth* 1.10pm, 6.30pm *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Release) 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.35pm *Hope Floats* 12.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm

ODEON:whiteleys  
(0990-888990) ♦ Whiteleys, *Antz* 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm *Elizabeth* 1.10pm, 6.30pm *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Release) 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.35pm *Hope Floats* 12.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm

ODEON:whiteleys  
(0990-888990) ♦ Whiteleys, *Antz* 1.20pm,

**HOLLOWAY**  
ODEON [08705 050007] @ Holloway Road/Archway Antz 1.20pm, 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm 1pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm. *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 1.25pm, 4.35pm, The *Truman Show* 2.45pm, 5pm, 7.25pm, 9.30pm.

**WALTHAMSTOW**  
ABC [0870-9020424] @ Walthamstow Central Antz 2.30pm, 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm, 10pm. *Snakes Eyes* 12.05pm, 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9.05pm. *There's Something About Mary* 6.10pm, 8.45pm. *The Truman Show* 1.55pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm.

**ILFORD**  
ODEON [08705 050007] @ Gants Hill Antz 2.50pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm. *Blade* 12.30pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 2.20pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, Primary Colors 1.10pm, 4.20pm, 5.35pm. *Snake Eyes* 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm.

**ISLE OF DOGS**  
THE SPACE ARTS CENTRE [0171-515 2453] OLR: Mudchute Eliza 8pm.

**KINGSTON**  
ABC OPTIONS [0870-9020409] BR: Kingston Antz 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9.05pm. *Elizabeth* 6pm. *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 2.30pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 8.35pm.

**MUSWELL HILL**  
ODEON [08705 050007] @ Highgate Antz 1.30pm, 3.20pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm. *Blade* 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm. *Elizabeth* 2.30pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 8.35pm.

**PECKHAM**  
PREMIER [0181-355 3006] BR: Peckham Antz 11.50am, 3.50pm, 5.50pm, 7.50pm. *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 4.05pm, 5.45pm, 9.10pm. *Halloween* 2.00pm, 6.35pm, 9.05pm. *Mulan* 11.45am, 3.35pm, 5.30pm. *A Perfect Murder* 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.25pm. *Small Soldiers* 12.05pm, 2.45pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 8.35pm. *The Truman Show* 2.30pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 8.35pm.

**PURLEY**  
ABC [0870-9020407] BR: Purley Antz 6.15pm, 8.40pm. *Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas* 5.45pm, 8.15pm. *Hope Floats* 5.40pm, 8.10pm.

**RICHMOND**  
ODEON [08705 050007] BR: Richmond Antz 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 7.40pm, 9.45pm. *Blade* 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 5.30pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm. *Snake Eyes* 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm.

**RIMFORD**  
ABC [0870-9020419] BR: Rimford Antz 2.05pm, 4.25pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm. *Blade* 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm. *Hope Floats* 2.10pm, 4.55pm, 8.30pm.

**ODEON STUDIO** [08705 050007] BR: Odeon Richmond Elizabeth 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm. *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm. *Hope Floats* 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 5.30pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm. *The Truman Show* 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.45pm.

**ROTHFORD**  
ABC [0870-9020419] BR: Rothford Antz 2.05pm, 4.25pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm. *Blade* 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm. *Hope Floats* 2.10pm, 4.55pm, 8.30pm.

**ODEON LIBERTY 2** [08705 050007] 8R: Odeon Richmond Elizabeth 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9pm. *Blade* 12.15pm, 3.05pm, 6pm, 8.35pm. *Elizabeth* 12.25pm, 3pm, 5.35pm, 8.15pm. *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.35pm. *Hope Floats* 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.45pm. *Small Soldiers* 1.10pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 7.15pm, 8.40pm. *The Wedding Singer* 12.45pm, 2.45pm, 4.45pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm.

**SIDCUP**  
ABC [051-555131] BR: Sidcup Antz 6pm, 8.45pm. *Hope Floats* 5.30pm, 8.30pm.

**STAPLES CORNER**  
VIRGIN [0870-9070717] BR: Cricklewood Antz 12.45pm, 3pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm. *Blade* 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9.15pm. *Elizabeth* 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.45pm. *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 12.30pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.40pm. *Mulan* 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm. *The Player's Club* 6.30pm. *Snakes Eyes* 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm. *There's Something About Mary* 8.40pm.

**STREATHAM**  
ABC [0870-9020415] BR: Streatham Antz 2.15pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.40pm. *Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas* 2.25pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 8.35pm. *Hope Floats* 2.15pm, 4.35pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm.

**ODEON STUDIO** [08705 050007] BR: Odeon Clapham Common Elizabeth 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm. *Elizabeth* 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm. *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm. *Hope Floats* 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm.

**ODEON** [08705 050007] @ Brixton/Clapham Common Elizabeth 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm. *Elizabeth* 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 5.35pm, 7.35pm, 9.35pm. *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm. *Hope Floats* 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm.

**ODEON** [08705 050007] @ Brixton/Clapham Common Elizabeth 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm. *Elizabeth* 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 5.35pm, 7.35pm, 9.35pm. *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm. *Hope Floats* 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm.

**SUTTON**  
UGC [0900-888990] BR: Sutton/O Morden Antz 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm. *Blade* 3pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm. *Elizabeth* 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm. *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 3.05pm, 5pm, 7.05pm, 9.05pm. *Snakes Eyes* 1.45pm, 4.45pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm.

**TURPIN LANE**  
CORONET [0181-888 2519] @ Turnpike Lane Antz 4pm, 6pm, 8.45pm. *Blade* 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 7pm, 9.30pm. *Elizabeth* 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm. *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 1.25pm, 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm. *Snakes Eyes* 4.15pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm.

**SURREY QUAYS**  
UGC [0900-888990] @ Surrey Quays Antz 2.50pm, 5.05pm, 7.15pm, 9.45pm. *Blade* 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm. *Elizabeth* 1.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm. *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 3.05pm, 5pm, 7pm, 8.45pm. *Halloween* 2.10pm.

**WIMBLEDON**  
ODEON [08705 050007] Antz 4pm, 6pm, 8.45pm. *Blade* 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 7pm, 9.30pm. *Elizabeth* 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm. *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 1.25pm, 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm. *Snakes Eyes* 4.15pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm.

**WELL HALL**  
CORONET [0181-850 3351] BR: Etham Antz 4pm, 6pm, 8.45pm. *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.15pm.

**WIMBLEDON**  
ODEON [08705 050007] BR: Wimbldon Antz 2.05pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm. *Blade* 2.20pm, 4.45pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm. *Elizabeth* 3.05pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm. *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 3.05pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm. *Snakes Eyes* 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

**WILDE HALL**  
CORONET [0181-850 3351] BR: Etham Antz 4pm, 6pm, 8.45pm. *Snakes Eyes* 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

**WILFRED**  
ODEON [08705 050007] BR: Wilfred Antz 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm. *Blade* 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm. *Hope Floats* 2.10pm, 4.55pm, 6.45pm, 8.30pm.

**WILLOWTHORPE**  
ODEON [08705 050007] BR: Willowthorpe Antz 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm. *Blade* 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm. *Elizabeth* 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm. *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

**WINDSOR**  
ODEON [08705 050007] BR: Windsor Antz 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm. *Blade* 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm. *Elizabeth* 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm. *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

**WINTON**  
ODEON [08705 050007] BR: Winton Antz 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm. *Blade* 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm. *Elizabeth* 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm. *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

**WISBECH**  
ODEON [08705 050007] BR: Wisbech Antz 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm. *Blade* 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm. *Elizabeth* 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm. *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

**WITNEY**  
ODEON [08705 050007] BR: Witney Antz 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm. *Blade* 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm. *Elizabeth* 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm. *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

**WITNEY**  
ODEON [08705 050007] BR: Witney Antz 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm. *Blade* 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm. *Elizabeth* 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm. *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

**WITNEY**  
ODEON [08705 050007] BR: Witney Antz 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm. *Blade* 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm. *Elizabeth* 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm. *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

**WITNEY**  
ODEON [08705 050007] BR: Witney Antz 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm. *Blade* 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm. *Elizabeth* 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm. *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

**WITNEY**  
ODEON [08705 050007] BR: Witney Antz 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm. *Blade* 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm. *Elizabeth* 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm. *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

**WITNEY**  
ODEON [08705 050007] BR: Witney Antz 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm. *Blade* 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm. *Elizabeth* 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm. *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

**WITNEY**  
ODEON [08705 050007] BR: Witney Antz 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm. *Blade* 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm. *Elizabeth* 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm. *The Exorcist* (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm.

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## WEDNESDAY RADIO

### RADIO 1

12.00 Kevin Greening 2.00 Mark Radcliffe, 4.00 Chris Moyles.  
5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce, 8.00 The Evening Session, 10.00 Movie Update with Mark Kermode, 12.10 John Peel.  
12.00 Gilles Peterson, 2.00 Cive Warren, 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills.

### RADIO 2

(88-90.2MHz FM)  
6.00 Sarah Kennedy, 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan, 9.30 Richard Allinson, 12.00 John Inverdale, 2.00 Ed Stewart, 5.05 Johnnie Walker, 7.00 Nick Barnabout, 8.00 Mike Harding, 9.00 All Singing, All Dancing, All Night, 10.00 Radio 2 Classic Albums, 10.30 Nicky Home, 12.00 Katrina Leskanich, 3.00 - 4.00 Alex Lester.

### RADIO 3

(90.2-92.4MHz FM)  
6.00 On Air, 9.00 Masterworks, 10.30 Artist of the Week, 11.00 Sound Stories, 12.00 Composer of the Week: Brahms, 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert, 2.00 The BBC Orchestras, 4.00 Choral Evensong, 5.00 In Tune, 7.30 Performance on 3, Live from the Royal Festival Hall, in the presence of Prince Edward, Joan Rodgers (soprano), BBC National Orchestra of Wales/Mark Wigglesworth, Tippett: The Rose Lake, Strauss: Four Last Songs, 8.00 Book of the Month, An extended review of one of the month's most interesting new publications. This month's book is Jay Parietti's biography of American poet Robert Frost, 8.50 Concert, part 2: Brahms: Symphony No 4 in E minor, 9.35 Postscript: Five programmes celebrating 50 years of photojournalism from the world's most famous photo agency, 3: My Face is Your Fortune, Magnum photographers consider their achievements in creating portraits of the century's celebrities, 10.00 Ensemble, Dvorak wrote his Violin Sonatas for his children

### PICK OF THE DAY

WILDLIFE ENTHUSIASTS can rejoice at the return of both the quiz show *Wildbrain* (13.00pm RT) and *Costing the Earth* (5pm RT) which examines the prospects of species on the verge of extinction. Guy Linley-Adams looks at some modern answers to the problems of animals, such as pandas (right), which are endangered in the wild but seemingly unable to breed in



ROBERT HANSEN

to play Beethoven composed a piano trio movement to encourage a little girl's musical studies, and Janacek's 'Mlada' is a nostalgic reflection of youth. Penny Gore introduces a programme inspired by childhood, including a performance of the Dvorak work by Philippe Graffin (violin) and Stephen Coombs (piano).  
10.45 Night Waves: Of all the great Italian painters, Caravaggio seems to speak most immediately to the modern world. The most intensely religious painter of his day, his works also reveal a strong, disturbing personality. Poussin was to think he had come into the world to destroy painting, and he continues to exert a powerful fascination on our own century. Laura Cumming reassesses his life and work in the light of two new studies. And art and subversion meet again as Ewan McGregor plays the disruptive student suspended from art school in a new production of David Halliwell's *Lilac Malcolm and the Battle against the Eunuchs*.  
11.30 Jazz Notes.  
12.00 Composer of the Week: Debussy, (R)  
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

### RADIO 4

(92.4-94.6MHz FM)  
6.00 Today, 9.00 News, 10.00 Midweek, 9.45 Serial; Alistair Cooke - a Celebration, 10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour, 11.00 NEWS: Live Luggage, 11.30 Funny Bones.

12.00 NEWS: You and Yours, 1.00 The World at One, 1.30 Wildbrain: See Pick of the Day, 2.00 NEWS: The Archers, 2.45 The Wrong Side of the River, 3.00 NEWS; Gardeners' Question Time, 3.30 Revenger, 3.45 Revenger, 4.00 NEWS: Case Notes, 4.30 Thinking Allowed, 5.00 PM, 6.00 Six O'Clock News, 6.30 Rainier Hersch's All Classical Music Explained, 7.00 NEWS: The Archers, 7.45 Front Row: Mark Lawson chalks the night's arts programme, 7.45 Still Waters, Part 8 by Ann Marie Di Mambro and Robert Patterson. Kate's husband is missing - should he declare him dead? A stranger arrives, throwing the family into confusion. With Ann Scott-Jones, Emma Currie and Liam Brennan. Director Patrick Rayner.  
8.00 NEWS: The Moral Maze. An extended study from Winchester Guildhall. In front of an invited audience, Michael Buerk chairs a debate on the moral issues behind one of the week's headlines. With Janet Daley, Ian Hargreaves, David Starkey and David Cook.  
9.00 NEWS: Costing the Earth. From the panda to the elephant, we seem to love big and cuddly animals, yet we have brought many species to the edge of extinction. IVF and cloning are being seen as a possible way to widen the gene pool, but will the science

that is transforming our lives really come to the rescue? See Pick of the Day, 10.00 The World Tonight. With Robin Lustig, 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Le Grand Meaulnes, Philip Franks reads Alain-Fournier's classic story of adolescent idealism, love and the search for the lost domain. Abridged by Doreen Estall (8/10).  
11.00 Five Squeaky Pieces: Offbeat comedy sketches and poems written and performed by Claire Calman, Julia Davis, Maria McErlane, Meera Syal and Arabella Weir. Additional material by Sarah Parkinson.  
11.30 Radio Shuttleworth, 12.00 News, 12.30 Late Book: A Man in Full, 12.45 Shipping Forecast, 1.00 World Service, 5.20 World News, 5.25 Shipping Forecast, 5.40 Irish Shipping Forecast, 5.45 Prayer for the Day, 5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

### RADIO 4 LW

(198kHz)  
9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service, 12.00 - 12.04 News: Shipping Forecast, 12.45 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast, 11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament.

### RADIO 5 LIVE

(693.9MHz MW)  
6.00 Breakfast, 9.00 Nicky Campbell, 12.00 The Midday News.

## SATELLITE AND CABLE

### PICK OF THE DAY

IT IS not only BBC TV which is in love with period drama. Inspired by the success of such offerings as *A Room with a View* and *Sense and Sensibility*, film-makers have also been drawn to adaptations of classic texts. Franco Zeffirelli's 1985 reading of Jane Eyre (7pm Sky MovieMax), the timeless novel by Charlotte Bronte, does not match up to the 1944 version, but it nevertheless has some fine performances. Charlotte

Gainsbourg makes a good job of the title role, as the orphan who finds work as a governess at Thornfield Hall, a forbidding mansion owned by the dour Mr Rochester (William Hurt, right). "Underwater Cops", this week's episode of *Real Lives* (11pm Discovery), homes in on the work of the Strathclyde Underwater Operational Team whose grim job it is to comb the coastline for missing persons. JAMES RAMPTON



Hidden Agendas: Trinity and Beyond (5/8/98), 11.00 Real Lives (7/14/97), 8.30 Pick of the Day, 12.00 The Great Egyptian (5/17/98), 1.00 First Flight (6/7/98), 1.30 Wheel Nuts (7/30/97), 2.00 Close.

### SKY ONE

7.00 The Simpsons (7/4/97), 7.30 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (6/4/97), 8.30 Hollywood Spots (5/23/97), 9.00 Gilty (5/19/97), 10.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (5/21/97), 11.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (5/22/97), 12.00 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (7/20/97), 12.45 The Special K Collection (5/20/97), 1.00 Days of Our Lives (5/23/97), 1.45 The Special K Collection (5/27/97), 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (5/29/97), 2.55 The Special K Collection (5/30/97), 3.00 Jenny Jones (5/31/97), 3.30 The Special K Collection (5/31/97), 4.00 The Special K Collection (5/31/97), 5.00 Star Trek Deep Space Nine (5/31/97), 6.00 Married with Children (5/31/97), 6.30 Friends (5/21/97), 7.00 The Simpsons (1/3), 7.30 Real TV (2/4/98), 8.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (5/21/97), 9.00 The X-Files (4/10/98), 10.00 Millennium (5/14/98), 11.00 Friends (5/21/97), 12.00 Star Trek (5/21/97), 13.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (5/21/97), 14.00 Star Trek (5/21/97), 15.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (5/21/97), 16.00 Friends (5/21/97), 17.00 The Simpsons (1/3), 18.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (5/21/97), 19.00 The X-Files (4/10/98), 20.00 Millennium (5/14/98), 21.00 Friends (5/21/97), 22.00 Star Trek (5/21/97), 23.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (5/21/97), 24.00 Star Trek (5/21/97), 25.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (5/21/97), 26.00 Friends (5/21/97), 27.00 The Simpsons (1/3), 28.00 Star Trek (5/21/97), 29.00 The X-Files (4/10/98), 30.00 Millennium (5/14/98), 31.00 Friends (5/21/97), 32.00 Star Trek (5/21/97), 33.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (5/21/97), 34.00 Star Trek (5/21/97), 35.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (5/21/97), 36.00 Friends (5/21/97), 37.00 The Simpsons (1/3), 38.00 Star Trek (5/21/97), 39.00 The X-Files (4/10/98), 40.00 Millennium (5/14/98), 41.00 Friends (5/21/97), 42.00 Star Trek (5/21/97), 43.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (5/21/97), 44.00 Star Trek (5/21/97), 45.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (5/21/97), 46.00 Friends (5/21/97), 47.00 The Simpsons (1/3), 48.00 Star 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